



Suzanne Moore
Why panic over
Alcopop?
Her new column, page 13



Bridget Jones
Still banged up
in Bangkok
Section two, page 5

Polly Toynbee
Do women
deserve a vote?
Comment, page 13

THE INDEPENDENT

3,082

WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 1996

WEATHER Generally fine except for the south-east

40P (IR 45P)

US abandoned us, say Kurds

Pro-Saddam leader expresses bitterness after bombing

By Hugh Pope

Salahuddin — The leader of the Kurdish group which has allied itself with President Saddam Hussein, angrily criticised the United States' missile attack on southern Iraq yesterday, and said that he had asked for Baghdad's support only because the US had abandoned the Kurds.

Masoud Barzani, whose Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) forces have been fighting alongside Saddam Hussein's forces in northern Iraq, said that his organisation had no choice but to side with Baghdad.

The KDP called on Saddam

'If iniquity were the trigger for air attacks, then the B-52s would be carpet-bombing the Middle East for weeks'

— Robert Fisk
page 9

'The missile strikes are an expression of frustration and impotence'

— Patrick Cockburn
page 12

for help, he said, in response to a threat of an alliance between their rivals in the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and Iran. Mr Barzani said he appealed not only to the US but to Britain, France, Germany, Turkey and regional states when they felt that the PUK was getting Iranian rocket and artillery support in a series of attacks and incursions since late July.

The US launched missile attacks on southern Iraq yesterday to punish Baghdad for Saddam Hussein's armoured attacks in

Kurdistan. But Mr Barzani said that the missile attack was "just part of President Bill Clinton's election campaign".

Looking tense and tired after a weekend in which his forces collaborated with Baghdad to capture the Iraqi Kurdish capital of Arbil, Mr Barzani said that his faction had become impatient with empty US promises to assist Kurdish autonomy. "We are angry with America. For two years the Americans have been playing with us," he told a news conference at his hilltop headquarters at Salahuddin, just outside Arbil.

The US launched missile attacks on military targets in southern Iraq in response to Baghdad's moves to evict the PUK from Arbil. Jalal Talabani, the PUK leader, told Reuters news agency yesterday that Iraqi troops and tanks were still deployed in the region. Mr Talabani's party had held Arbil since 1994, when an uneasy Kurdish alliance collapsed in fighting.

KDP officials say that the only Western diplomat who visits them with any regularity is the much-liked Frank Baker from the British Embassy in Ankara in Turkey. High-powered American diplomats dropped by infrequently, made threats and left soon afterwards, making little lasting impact.

Allied officers in a small monitoring base close to the Turkish border rarely venture more than a few kilometres away, they said, and due to Turkish pressure have virtually no political contact with the Iraqi Kurdish leadership.

"We felt our existence was threatened. There was no response to our appeal. We also wrote to the regional leaders and to the President of the Iraqi republic. Then there certainly



© John Tickell 1996

was a response to our appeal."

The response from Baghdad

was Iraqi armour and artillery

support for their joint attack on

Arbil on Saturday. The new at-

mosphere is symbolised by what

travellers from Arbil said were

two flags flying side-by-side over

the city's landmark castle: that

of the KDP and that of Iraq.

The situation in Arbil was

said to be tense yesterday, and

the KDP still forbade foreign

journalists to visit it because they

said they were still hunting

down armed PUK fighters. A

few people could be found

leaving the city, but KDP check-

points were out allowing any

mass exodus.

The fighting on Saturday was

quickly over. The KDP says that it

lost seven Peshmerga guerrilla

while Tareq, a 25-year-old KDP fighter, said he saw 60

PUK Peshmerga bodies in a

hospital courtyard. He said the

first line of fighters were the

KDP's main trained regiment

and added that about half of the

Iraqi units with them fledged to

the Iranian opposition group.

the Mujahideen-e Khalq. Few

Iraqis went further than the parliament building on the ring road, he said.

The KDP officially says that all the Iraqis are now out of the city. It says it arrested some 2,000 PUK members, including the former prime minister Fouad Masoum and had already released 1,500 of them. The party said that its men were still searching for Hero Talabani, the wife of the PUK leader, who was in Arbil at the time of the attack.

"I'm quite frightened," said Ronaq Rafiq Tawfiq, a 25-year-old schoolteacher who had left Arbil to stay with relatives in Salahuddin. "There is still the sound of shooting at night."

The PUK, having retreated rapidly from Arbil, immediately cut all electricity supplies to the city. This is having severe repercussions on the supply of water for its one million people.

At his hilltop headquarters, fitfully supplied with power from a sub-standard generator, Mr Barzani said no formal talks

The American attack on Iraq

■ The United States fired 27 cruise missiles in response to Iraqi attacks on the Kurds. The missiles were fired from B-52 bombers and warships in the Gulf at military targets in southern Iraq.

■ "Our objectives are limited but clear," said President Bill Clinton. "To make Saddam pay a price for the latest act of brutality, reducing his ability to threaten his neighbours and America's interests."

■ US Defence Secretary William Perry said Iraq posed a "clear and present danger" to neighbouring countries.

■ The US extended a no-fly zone in southern Iraq, and said that a United Nations plan to allow Iraq to sell oil to buy food could not proceed.

■ Iraq said five people were killed and 19 wounded. President Saddam Hussein urged his air force to attack allied planes.

■ Russia hit out at the US, saying the strikes were launched to help Mr Clinton win November's presidential elections.

■ "The United States has our full support," John Major said, "and I hope and believe others will support them as well."

■ Britain said that it had allowed US planes to refuel at American-operated facilities on the British island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

■ Oil prices surged, but then fell back with Brent crude hitting a post-Gulf war high of \$23.50 (£15.00) a barrel, slipping back to \$22.04.

KDP, which now controls two of the three provinces of Iraqi Kurdistan. Worn down by five years of deprivation, blockade, internal fighting and fading Western interest, Iraqi Kurds are more and more ready to discuss getting back together with the Iraqi central government.

The dream of an independent Kurdistan is gone," Mohsen, an Iraqi Kurdish teacher, said. "There were many who believed in it a few years ago, but now, after these wars, people are much more realistic."

Record haul of rhino horn is seized

MICHAEL STREETER

The world's largest haul of illegally held rhinoceros horn was seized in London yesterday in what was heralded as a major breakthrough in combating the international poaching trade in endangered species.

The discovery of 105 white and black rhino horns worth £2.8m in crates in lock-up mews garages in Kensington followed a joint undercover operation between officers from the South East Regional Crime Squad and the RSPCA.

An RSPCA official de-

scribed the discovery as "absolutely fantastic".

Two men and two women, all from the Cambridge area, were arrested as part of Operation Morello, shortly after 2pm yesterday. One of the women was released without charge last night.

Experts believe the horns are from rhinos in Southern Africa, though many of them may have been stockpiled over a period of more than a year.

It is thought that London was being used as a staging post for the horns — with the market likely to be the Far East and

Middle East. The largest horn was valued at £96,000.

The RSPCA's chief inspector, Terry Spamer, said: "The white rhinos we found today represent more than 1 per cent of the entire world population of white rhinos and there is enormous cruelty involved in the poaching of these animals. This would have flooded the UK market."

Roy Clark, regional coordinator of the South East Regional Crime Squad, added: "This is an excellent example of good co-operation between agencies."

A spokeswoman for the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) — which has recently had two of the rhinos that it supports killed by poachers — said: "This is obviously a breakthrough in the fight against the illegal trade in wildlife which threatens many species, including the rhinos, with extinction."

In addition to its use as a supposed aphrodisiac, ground rhino horn is used in many Chinese communities for medicinal purposes. The horns are also valued as dagger handles in Middle East countries like

Yemen where they are known as jambiyas.

According to the WWF, the black rhinoceros population has dropped to just over 2,400, with most of those that remain being found in South Africa, Namibia, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

The white rhinoceros population is estimated at about 7,500 — with the vast majority in South Africa.

In recent years, the populations of both species have existed in mostly protected areas, leading to speculation that the current haul comes from pre-

viously poached stocks or even old trophies that may have languished on game hunters' walls for years.

A spokesman for the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) said it was studying the development.

A spokesman for the Department of Environment spokesman said the discovery was a good example of cross-agency partnership and added that the United Kingdom was committed to the protection of endangered species under the international convention.

QUICKLY

MoD homes row

Allegations of a lack of patriotism, sleaze and "Tory fat cats lining their pockets" were levelled at the Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Portillo, when the MoD announced that the preferred bidder for its £1.6bn sale of married-quarters included Nomura, the Japanese bank

Page 2

School tests at five

All five-year-olds will be tested during their first half-term at school from September 1998, under plans announced by the Government yesterday. Page 4

The politicians' wives

Norma Major took to the road yesterday in what could be the opening shot of an alternative election campaign — a competition between the wives of the party leaders. Page 3

Rugby split deepens

The England rugby union squad is to go ahead with training today, despite indications that many players would not turn up, amid a deepening row between clubs and the RFU. Page 3

Maurice Lacroix
Switzerland



THE TIAGO COLLECTION FROM £450

GOLDSMITHS

WALKER & HALL
THE MARK OF A FINE JEWELLER

Maurice Lacroix Swiss Watches, are available at selected branches of the Goldsmiths Group, one of the country's leading retail jewellers with over a 100 branches nationwide.

For details of your nearest stockist call FREE on 0800 220733

CONTENTS

Section 1

BUSINESS & CITY 15-19

COMMENT 11-13

CROSSWORD 20

FOREIGN NEWS 8-10

GAZETTE 14

LEADING ARTICLES 11

LETTERS 11

SHARES 19

UNIT TRUSTS 15

WEATHER 2

Section 2

ARTS 8.9

BRIDGET JONES 5

FINANCE 14-16

LAW 20.21

LISTINGS 24.25

LIVING 4.5

TV & RADIO 27.28

TRAVEL 10.11

YOUR MONEY 12-14

Computer C

36

9 7

news

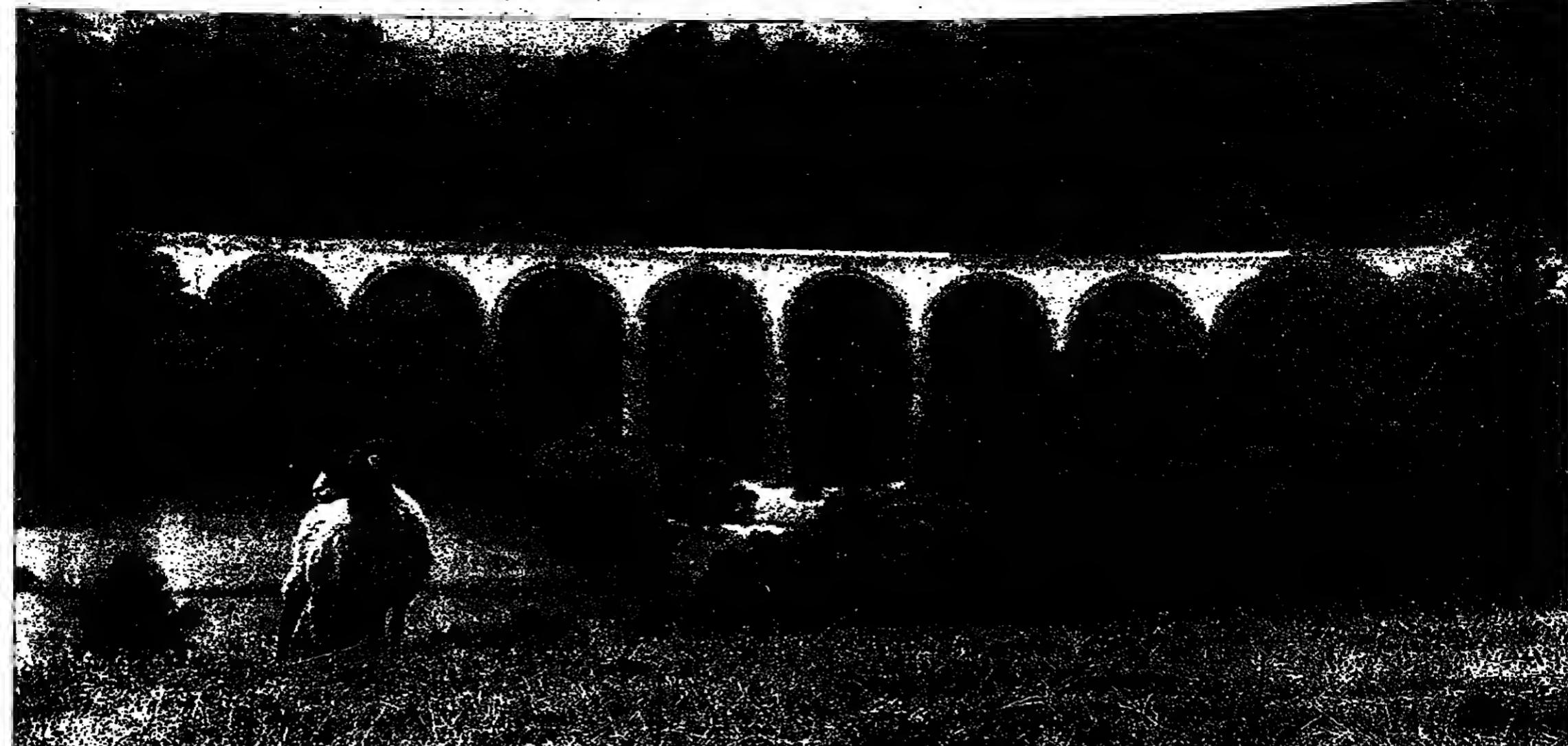
Reborn viaduct spans the centuries

Lambley Viaduct, a masterpiece of Victorian engineering spanning the South Tyne, was opened to walkers yesterday after a £700,000 restoration.

Jim Cornell, executive director of the Railway Heritage Trust, acting on behalf of British Rail Property Board, handed over the viaduct to the North Pennines Heritage Trust, which will maintain it in perpetuity with a fund provided by the property board.

The 16-arched viaduct, which soars 110ft above the river, was opened in 1852 to bridge the last gap in the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway. It was closed in 1976 and was once considered for demolition. Its quality was recognised by English Heritage which upgraded its status to Grade II Star, allowing grant assistance to be offered.

The viaduct will be part of the South Tyne Trail being developed by Cumbria and Northumberland councils.



Get out and walk: The trains stopped long ago and it fell into disrepair. Yesterday Lambley Viaduct was opened to hikers after a £700,000 restoration

Photograph: Tom Finn

Schools to test all 5-year-olds in first term

JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

All five-year-olds will be tested during their first half-term at school from September 1998, under plans announced by the Government yesterday.

The new "baseline assessments" will emphasise the three Rs and will be used to measure the effect of schools on children's progress, as well as to determine children's needs. Schools will also be encouraged to assess children's physical and emotional development: how they cope on a climbing frame, for example, and how they relate to each other and adults.

Tests for 7, 11 and 14-year-olds are already in place and the first performance tables for 11-year-olds will be published next spring.

At present, ministers have no plans to publish performance tables for five-year-olds. Parents

will be told their children's results confidentially.

One teachers' union accused the Government of overloading teachers, but another welcomed the decision to stop short of imposing the same national tests for all children entering school.

Instead, there will be national framework against which local assessment schemes will be judged. About half local authorities already assess five-year-olds. Both Labour and the Conservatives are committed to baseline testing.

Schools will be asked to join voluntary assessment schemes from September next year, and trials for the new framework will begin in 360 schools next week.

A national sample of children will be taken in 1998 so that ministers can assess national standards.

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, said:

What your child needs to know in the first year of primary school

Tick list of literacy and numeracy skills:

Reading
Holds books appropriately while turning pages and retelling story from memory. Uses memory to match some spoken and written words. Recognises letters by shape and sound. Reads familiar words in a range of contexts. Reads simple texts.

Writing

Uses symbols and letters. Writes name with appropriate upper and lower case letters. Hears sounds in words and writes corresponding letters in sequence. Attempts to write sentences. Attempts to spell unfamiliar words.

Creats objects by size.

Matches similar objects to one another. Counts objects accurately. Identifies sequences. Counts objects accurately. Recognises numbers. Writes numbers. Adds and subtracts objects. Solves addition and subtraction problems.

Maths

Creates own pattern.

"In our drive to serve our children well and raise standards, it is essential that teachers and parents know what their children have already mastered and what their future learning needs are."

Sir Ron Dearing chairman of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, said: "It won't be threatening. It isn't a formal test. It won't be a one-off. During the first half of term, the teacher will make assess-

ments as part of her normal work."

No local scheme will be approved unless it involves parents. Sir Ron said parents might be asked to say whether their children could write letters, count to 10, recognise single words, pull eight bricks out of a pile or draw a picture of a man.

The authority will consult parents and teachers about three alternative schemes for the national framework. One

involves only literacy and numeracy, another asks the teacher to match a child's performance to descriptions of skills, and a third requires teachers to write their own descriptions of what children can do.

Sir Ron acknowledged that the new tests would mean more work for teachers.

Mrs Shephard said: "At this stage we are not putting in place a national scheme of assessment but that remains a possibility should it prove to be desirable." Legislation to enable a national scheme to be created is planned.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers said:

"The education system is getting more like a public address system: testing, testing, testing. We think this is overloading the system. We should not mind if they were going to drop tests at

seven." The union would support members who refused to carry out the tests on workload grounds, he said.

But Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "The Government has at last moved its attitude from if it moves test it, with the approval of the local church - which owned the building - they gathered the support of the local business community, and began a campaign to save the school, and make it a non-fee paying independent institution, with charitable status.

Parents, some of whose families had attended the school in Priors Marston, for five generations, fought the decision, and with the approval of the local church - which owned the building - they gathered the support of the local business community, and began a campaign to save the school, and make it a non-fee paying independent institution, with charitable status.

The money raised is only enough to keep it open for a year but David Adams, chairman of the appeal fund, believes the village will ensure its future. New headteacher Brenda Edwards said she had been overwhelmed by people's generosity. "It is a lovely atmosphere here and I am privileged to be a part of it."

Editor accused of firing middle-aged men finds herself on the spike

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

The *Sunday Express*, one of the most famous newspapers in Fleet Street history, was yesterday effectively shut down by its owners, United News & Media, as part of a controversial restructuring aimed at introducing a seven-day operation taking in both the *Sunday Express* and the *Daily Express*.

The newspaper, founded by Lord Beaverbrook and boasting at its height a daily sale of more than 4 million, will be published as part of a combined editorial operation, at the cost of 85 jobs, although its owners insisted last night the two titles would keep their separate mastheads.

Sue Douglas, the editor of the Sunday newspaper, has been offered £375,000 to leave her job, as part of the across-the-board restructuring. Several senior Sunday staff have been offered positions in the new structure, but said last night they were likely to decline.

Ms Douglas herself controversially fired staff at the *Sunday Express*, where staff yesterday complained that no details were yet available about the anticipated sackings.

One senior Sunday journalist said: "They have put the f**wits in charge."

The animosity between the Sunday and the daily staff had been growing in recent months, as the consultants worked their way through the operation to identify likely savings.

The restructuring will see Richard Addis, currently editor of the *Daily Express*, take on editorial management of both



titles. There are plans to introduce new magazines on Saturday and Sunday, a new Monday-Sunday sports supplement and an increase in regional coverage.

In a letter to staff, seen by *The Independent*, Mr Addis wrote: "The changes we're planning at the Express makes us the first national newspaper group to publish papers for the way people actually live today - rather than the way they used to live."

He added that the old distinctions between the daily and weekend markets were no longer useful, and that by combining the two titles, "we will try to avoid their weaknesses".

He said he intended to introduce 12 new departments, each with a head and a deputy head.

News, pictures and sport will run on a daily cycle, while other parts of the paper, including features and analysis, will operate weekly - although not necessarily for Sunday publication.

The restructuring has left bitter feelings at the *Sunday Express*, where staff yesterday complained that no details were yet available about the anticipated sackings.

One senior Sunday journalist said: "They have put the f**wits in charge."

The animosity between the Sunday and the daily staff had been growing in recent months, as the consultants worked their way through the operation to identify likely savings.

The problems at the *Express* have been exacerbated by the

Charges of BSE cover-up investigated by Europe

TONY BARBER
Europe Editor

The European Parliament began an inquiry yesterday into whether the European Commission deliberately stifled debate about the possible threat to human health from BSE in British cattle.

A 19-member committee has until 17 November to report on whether the commission and member-states kept the public fully informed.

Documents leaked to the eve of the inquiry purport to show that senior commission bureaucrats responsible for agricultural policy tried to restrict public awareness of BSE in order to prop up the European beef market.

According to the documents, which were passed to the Paris newspaper *Liberation*, the chief

villain of the piece was Guy Legras, a Frenchman who has headed the commission's agriculture directorate for the past 11 years.

In one document, an unsigned fax dated 1 March 1993, Mr Legras is said to have written: "In my experience, all discussion of BSE inevitably causes problems in the meat market. We have already had an alarm last January after a programme on German television, and it is only by dint of prudence and discretion that we have been able, for the moment, to avoid a panic... In order to keep the public reassured, it is essential that we ourselves do not provoke a reopening of the debate."

The fax was sent to Ricardo Perissich, the Italian head of the commission's internal-market directorate, who had requested an investigation into possible

links between BSE and Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease, the human degenerative brain disorder. The reply attributed to Mr Legras raises the question of whether EU officials were placing a higher priority on protecting the beef market than on protecting consumers.

Another leaked document, dating from 1990, indicates that participants at a meeting of the EU's Permanent Veterinary Committee advised the British Government not to publish the results of scientific research into BSE. A memorandum prepared by a French official in charge of consumer affairs, Gilbert Castille, referred bluntly to the need for "disinformation" to deflect the media's attention from BSE.

The commission's chief spokesman, Nikolaus van der Fas, did not deny the authenticity of the documents but insisted that the commission had not arranged a cover-up. It would co-operate with the inquiry.

The inquiry must establish whether there was "maladministration" of EU laws by the commission or national governments. If that is the conclusion, some officials in the agricultural bureaucracy may come under pressure to resign. So far the commission President, Jacques Santer, is standing by Mr Legras.

The commission has never made a secret of the fact that one of its main concerns has been the protection of the beef market.

However, since Britain's disclosure that BSE might be linked to the equivalent human disease, the commission has placed more emphasis on the need to eradicate BSE completely.

Envoy accused over child porn

JOJO MOYES

Customs officers doing a routine search of the belongings of a British diplomat uncovered 109 obscene videos, 70 of which contain scenes of "paedophile depravity", a court heard.

Robert Coghlan, who was a first secretary at the Tokyo embassy, is pleading not guilty to a charge of illegal importation of paedophile material. On the first day of his trial yesterday, Southwark Crown Court heard that in August last year Mr Coghlan, who is suspended from the Foreign Office, anticipated he was to be relocated. At first it looked as though his destination was to be Britain but it was later decided he was to take up office in Madrid.

He was to leave Japan in October and before arriving in England was to go on a short tour, his goods in Tokyo to follow separately. The packer sent a customs form requesting details of the baggage. Mr Coghlan did not fill it in but completed a later form, writing

"none" against the space asking whether the baggage contained prohibited goods. Unbeknown to the authorities at that time was the fact that among his personal belongings were 109 video cassettes of an obscene nature, of which 70 contained scenes of paedophile depravity," said Nigel Lithman, for the prosecution.

The jury was asked to sit through a 90-minute sample, although this was later halved.

The videos and some stills, "homosexual" magazines and brochures were found during a search at an East London storage facility and Mr Coghlan was arrested in March this year. The court heard that in an interview he said he had not wanted the videos to come to Britain but to take up office in Madrid.

"He said he was not interested in watching young kids, although he made quite clear that he recognised children in the videos were aged 12 or 13 and that he thought them rather young," said Mr Lithman.

The hearing continues today.

Bodies found in Dutroux garden

LOUISE JURY

The decomposing bodies of two adolescents were found yesterday in the grounds of a property owned by Marc Dutroux, the chief suspect in Belgium's child abuse and murder scandal.

Major Jean-Marie Boudin, the police spokesman, said: "We have discovered bodies, probably of a human nature."

A source said they were in an advanced state of decomposition.

Fears had mounted that more bodies would be found since two were discovered in the garden of Dutroux's home in Sars-la-Bussière near Charleroi last month after the convicted paedophile led police to them.

The find came after two girls were rescued in good health from another property owned by Dutroux. He was released from jail four years ago after serving three of a 13-year sentence for raping underage girls.

Dutroux, who allegedly led the gang now facing kidnapping

and abuse charges, also admitted abducting An Marchal, 17, and Eefje Lambrechts, 19, a year ago.

Hopes had been high that they had survived, and their parents were encouraged to believe they might still be alive. But their whereabouts remains a mystery. A number of children have vanished in Belgium in recent years and remain unaccounted for.

As the speculation mounted, Superintendent John Bennett, who headed the British investigation into the Fred and Rosemary West killings in Gloucestershire, flew out to Belgium to advise the investigators and specialist radar equipment, used in the Cromwell Street inquiry, was brought in to aid the digging.

Police have been digging around the property in Jumet, southern Belgium, for the past week. The bones were found beneath a shed in the garden.

Major Boudin emphasised that the police did not know the identity of the remains.

هذا من الأصل

Yes, it's a very big coupon, but have you seen
the size of your overdraft recently?

The Lloyds Bank Graduate Service proves that our heart is as big as our coupon. Transfer your current account to us and you can apply for a life saving interest free (0% APR) £700 overdraft, not to mention a loan of up to £5000 and up to 2 years fee free banking. For more details freephone 0800 66 44 77 or see if you can squeeze your name and address into the coupon below.

GRADUATE SERVICE

 Lloyds Bank

Yes, I am a graduate, and I would dearly love to know how Lloyds Bank can help me.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____



TOWN _____

POSTCODE _____

TELEPHONE _____

FOR MORE INFORMATION, FILL IN THIS COUPON AND RETURN TO
GRADUATE SERVICE, LLOYDS BANK, DEPT GWC, FREEPOST SCE 918,
SWINDON SN38 9HB OR FREEPHONE 0800 66 44 77 QUOTING REF IND11.

news

Labour fights shy of union proposals

BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

The Labour leadership distanced itself yesterday from proposals for far tighter regulation of the world of work and new rights to strike for unions, which have been drawn up by some of the most prominent figures on the eco-left outside Parliament.

The 350-page study calls for the freedom to stage industrial action - without a ballot in certain cases - and virtually unlimited licence to take sympathetic action. Endorsed by a wide range of figures, most of whom are Labour Party members, the study, "Working Life", will no doubt be characterised by the Conservative Party as Labour's "hidden agenda".

David Blunkett, shadow employment secretary, effectively rubbished the document as a

from the Labour Party's point of view.

The study also calls for a national minimum wage based on the European Decency Threshold, which would currently give a rate higher than the £4.26 an hour being demanded by some unions.

Minimum employment terms should be enforced by statutory Sectoral Employment Commissions, which would have a responsibility to promote collective bargaining. The sectoral agreements would be enforceable through newly established labour courts.

"Working Life" concludes that "deregulation" of the labour market has failed to provide long-term economic security. A "reconstruction" of labour law was needed to establish minimum standards at work. Five principles should underpin such legislation: a quality of opportunity, social justice, workplace democracy, the protection of civil liberties and "fairness" at work.

The report argues that employment law should reach all workers, especially the most vulnerable, such as agency workers, homeworkers and casual employees. Working time should be regulated in accordance with European Union standards and there should be new initiatives to help workers with family responsibilities. The law on unfair dismissal should be strengthened so that people are more effectively protected.

Caron Jones, director of the institute, said the document amounted to the most comprehensive review of employment law in this country for the past 30 years. "If implemented these proposals would go a long way to rebuild democratic institutions and the people's rights and opportunities, using employment law as one of the vehicles for this purpose."

But Mr Blunkett wanted to put the policy suggestions firmly in their place. "In the course of any one week there are literally dozens of policy papers, resource findings and suggested revisions to the law which arrive on my desk. Some of them, like the curate's egg, are good in parts and offer food for thought."

He pointed out that Labour had produced its own proposals: "It will not be our intention to add to our proposals in the light of this or similar reports."

"combination of detailed research on the one hand and wish-list on the other". Labour would not be responding to "impossible demands".

The Institute of Employment Rights, which published the report, was at pains to present the study as a discussion document - an attempt to set the agenda for debate - rather than a manifesto.

The most sensitive element of the study, endorsed by those on the left and right of the party, is the section dealing with unions.

The document says that unions should have the freedom to determine their own rules. Strike ballots should not be required by law where action is in response to the victimisation of a union official or a unilateral variation of working conditions by an employer. Workers would also be allowed to refuse to cross picket lines without a vote. The report says the framework for union law should be determined by International Labour Organisation conventions, which are too radical

to be responded to by the vehicles for this purpose."

He pointed out that Labour had produced its own proposals: "It will not be our intention to add to our proposals in the light of this or similar reports."

Travel as many times as you like from £59 a year.

Take out American Express annual travel insurance and you can make £59 go a long way. Because one payment means you can take an unlimited number of trips throughout the year.

And now you don't have to be an American Express Cardmember to enjoy the reassurance of international cover from an international company.

Our insurance covers almost every eventuality; not just medical matters but baggage loss, theft of personal property, legal expenses and travel delay. You can also choose from a range of policies - just look at the examples below.

| Travel Insurance Rates | | |
|--|----------------------|------------------------------|
| | Individual Under 65s | Family 2 adults & 2 children |
| Single trip cover: Europe up to 17 days | £26.50 | £57.00 |
| European annual cover: Up to 31 days per trip | £59 | £95 |
| Worldwide annual cover: Up to 31 days per trip | £89 | £127 |

Annual cover includes 17 days winter sports cover, saving you around £50. Rates are available for those aged over 65 years.

To enrol, call the number below from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday or 9am to 5pm on Tuesday quoting reference 106.

0800 700 737

Insurance Services

Certain exclusions and eligibility limitations apply. Policy Terms and Conditions are available on request.

Mischiefous sprite spreads confusion among the mortals



Comedy of tricks: Yung-biao Lin of the Ninagawa Company of Japan rehearsing as Puck in full make-up for the production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* which opens at the Mermaid Theatre in the City of London tonight and plays until 14 September

Photograph: Edward Sykes

Women's rugby, a lesbian season, Asian comedy - an average night on Channel 4

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Media Correspondent

Women's rugby, a lesbian season, an Asian comedy, a sports magazine presented by children and a portrait of the Anglican church in crisis were yesterday unveiled by Channel 4 as evidence of its unique role in providing television for minorities.

It has been thrown on the defensive by claims that it may be sold, and criticism that it no longer fulfills its specialised remit. Channel 4's chief executive, Michael Grade, has also been attacked for competing head-to-head with ITV with imported entertainment shows such as *Friends*.

But John Willis, director of programmes, said as he launched the autumn schedule:

"This is the perfect answer to what people have been saying about Channel 4's remit."

The remit is about creating a channel that can take risks and try new things. On every floor

of Channel 4, as well as coffee machines, there are commissioners who understand that the remit is the soul of the channel.

"It is not just worthwhile programmes - multicultural programmes, or gay programmes. It's trying new filmmakers, whether it's Danny

Boyle in *Trainspotting* or Nicholas Hytner in *The Madness of King George*, or writing talent which is starting to emerge."

Mr Willis cited his adventurous new game show *Want* as an example of innovation. In it the former KGB spy Oleg Gordievsky will offer advice to

competitors trying to escape capture in a hunt shown live weekly.

The channel will also show a

series of quirky documentaries this autumn called *Women At Play*, including women's rugby by team and a football team of women pensioners.

The arts line-up is led by Sir Simon Rattle's seven-hour exploration of 20th century orchestral music, while for the sixth year running Channel 4 will screen the Turner Prize award dinner.

The highlight of the autumn's drama is a three-part serial by

Paula Milne, writer of the *The Politician's Wife*. It stars Nigel Hawthorne as a heart surgeon who undergoes a personal crisis at the height of his career.

Hawthorne's triumph in the Oscar-winning feature film *The Madness of King George* will be given its British television premiere on Channel 4, along with *Backbeat*, *Vanya on 42nd Street* - Louis Malle's final film, *Ladybird Ladybird* by Ken Loach and the Asian comedy by Gurinder Chadha, *Bhaji On The Beach*.

The season features the actress Jane Horrocks in *Never Mind the Horrocks* offering spoofs of Jane Austen and a prissy 1950s child's TV presenter. Also coming is a second season of *Dyke TV* featuring a profile of the model Rachel Williams, who co-presented the *Globe Show*, *Rookies*, the first sports magazine featuring children as reporters and a profile of Paul Gascoigne on *Cutting Edge*.



For all tastes: Channel 4's line-up includes Jane Horrocks, Nigel Hawthorne, Oleg Gordievsky and Paul Gascoigne

Think tank tells Blair not to spend more on NHS

NICHOLAS TIMMINS
Public Policy Editor

The United Kingdom can not afford the NHS, it should not cost any more money to it, according to a report published yesterday by the left-of-centre think tank the Institute of Public Policy Research.

In an analysis as controversial as last year's drug industry-financed report *Healthcare 2000*, which argued that the NHS was in crisis and that new charges or a "core" service would have to be introduced, the IPPR study argues there is nothing fundamentally new in the gap between demand for health care and its supply - and that there is no greater need to ration care now than in 1948.

The report will provide comfort for Tony Blair, the Labour

leader, who has been arguing that a Labour government must ensure existing NHS resources are well spent before deciding whether there is a "funding gap" to plug. Its conclusions also challenge the view of those who believe the NHS cannot continue and that new forms of charging are inevitable.

The report's authors, Sarah Wordsworth, Cam Donaldson and Anthony Scott, say their findings do not remove the need to set priorities and ration health care to some degree. "Resources for health care are scarce, have always been scarce and always will be."

But the need to make choices about what and how much is provided, does not mean new charges or a reduced "core" service. Charges are both in-

equitable, hurting the least well off, and inflationary - they tend to generate extra and, at times, unnecessary treatment and investigation of patients who can afford to pay. Countries which have attempted to define core services - New Zealand, the Netherlands and the US state of Oregon - have found the exercise difficult. Extra real-term spending on the NHS should only be allowed where the costs plainly bring benefits, the report argues.

The UK spends less on health care, and sometimes substantially less, than other developed countries. But there is no clear evidence that they achieve better health outcomes as a result.

□ *Can We Afford the NHS?*, IPPR, 30-32 Southampton St, WC2E 7RA; £5.45.

DAILY POEM

A Kind of Poetry

By Christopher Reid

The first empties his pockets and then builds towers of the different denominations to stand by his place at table while he chews.

The next daydreams of the death of an imagined relative, a solicitor's letter the spell which will change his life.

The third throws most of what he has at women and flighty horses.

The fourth remains in his nostrils briefly the faint, pungent smell of new notes out of the machine.

Number five never fails to consult the experts and the stargazers before attempting the timidiest transaction.

While six, poor six, who must beg for it, knows just which pitch is lucky, and which is not.

Christopher Reid's *Expanded Universe*, published on Monday by Faber, is one of the most inventive poetry books of the year. Reid's method, "elegantly oblique" as one writer has described it, creates poems of dazzling imagery and whimsy, at the heart of which there is a rare modesty and warmth. He can be heard reading his poems at Voice Box on the South Bank, Wednesday 18 September at 7.30pm.

Public tough on police rapists

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

Police officers who rape should be jailed for longer than professional and working class offenders, a survey has found.

Research also revealed that many people continue to believe myths about rape, such as that women who wear short skirts, get drunk and walk home late at night are more likely to be raped. Research shows, however, that most women are attacked by someone they know, during "date rape" for example, and that assaults usually occur indoors.

In the study, presented to the conference of the British Psychological Society's criminol-

ogical and legal division, a sample group of about 100 was given four scenarios in which a rape was carried out and asked to complete a questionnaire. The stories included a lorry driver attacking an unemployed mother, a police officer raping an accountant after an office party, a lecturer assaulting a student, and a homeless man raping a school cook.

The group believed the police officer should get the longest sentence, which ranged from seven years to life, and all members wanted longer jail terms than are given in court. The second most severe sentence went to the lorry driver, who threatened to kill his victim, followed by the lecturer and the homeless person. The longest sentences were recommended for "respectable" rapists irrespective of the victims' "respectability". Few participants blamed the victims or stated that the attacks were "foreseeable".

An unexpected finding of

the research, by Michelle Dolphine and Joanna Adler of the department of psychology at Kent University, was that a third of the 50 women in the sample questioned reported that they had been raped or sexually assaulted. The victims were less likely to subscribe to the rape stereotypes.

■ Military style regimes at American "boot camps" - recently imported to the British penal system - fail to deter inmates from reoffending, the conference was told.

American research suggests the only positive effect on the offend-

ers appears to be linked to rehabilitation programmes or intensive post-release supervision.

Britain's first boot camp for young offenders opened in July at Thorn Cross Young Offenders Institution in Warrington. Inmates aged between 18 and 21 will face intensive physical training and education.

Danielle Hudson, a forensic

psychologist, in a review of pub-

licised work on the "success" of

boot camps, concluded that

"there is no clear evidence of any

beneficial effects resulting from a regime's military emphasis".

HOUSE INSURANCE

SAVE 50% OR

UP TO £100,000 Buildings Sum Insured

Premium Only £154.00

LOWER Premiums in most Other Areas

Ring NOW to Save Money

0345 123111

At calls charged at local rate

Hill House Hammond

Cutting The Cost Of Your Insurance

هذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل



British Gas
Home Energy

Flexible ways to pay

CREDIT EXAMPLE: ANNUAL BILL £300.00 (INC VAT) + £12 - £25 PER MONTH. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST. APR 0%. SUBJECT TO STATUS. YOU MUST NOT HAVE A PREVIOUS BILL OUTSTANDING. COMPARISON WITH STANDARD CREDIT TARIFF AND PROVIDED ANNUAL CHARGES ARE OVER £82.00.

The best days of your life, the worst of mine

Summer's over, the new term is about to begin. What are the nameless terrors lurking in the pit of your stomach, and why don't your children seem to share them?

There is something about the first day at school which demands spanking new shoes

BY SOPHIE RADICE

Why do I do it? I, who always laugh at the herd-like instincts of the French blocking the roads of the nation as they leave and return from their holidays on exactly the same day. And yet, here we all are, once again in Brent Cross shopping centre on the run-up to the start of a new school year, grimly going from shoe shop to shoe shop while children weep and wail and mothers either shriek or go all glassy-eyed and retreat to that place in their head where mothers who don't shout go.

We could all have done this a couple of weeks ago, or indeed waited until next weekend or the weekend after that, but there is something about the first day of the new school term which demands absolutely spanking new shoes. Of course, their feet will have grown over the holidays, and, of course, most of us feel guilty about their having worn £1.99 jellies for the whole of the summer ("little feet are precious and growing bones must be supported" said a sign in one slate shop), but there is more to it than that.

I remember the ritual of going to buy shoes at John Lewis (who now give out bleepers at this pre-school rush so that parents can "shop at their leisure" to pass the two-hour wait) and my feelings of fresh optimism and excitement being bound up in walking into my playground and lining up for the first time in ages with fine new shoes. Much of that first day would be spent sipping and rubbing the shoes in an attempt to keep them nice and shiny.

I suspect all the mothers clutching alarmingly high-number tickets in Russell and Bromley's Kid store, while a Disney film blares out from strategically placed television screens have similar memories. Like our own mothers at the beginning of the school year, we all want to do absolutely the right thing by our child, as if making them feel smart and confident for the first day will set the tone for the whole school year.

At this shoe store they have not only trainers with light-up heels and laces but also nice, round-toed, medically approved leather ones. Both are horribly expensive, and I have to admit that when I have been skint at other times of the year I have just got the right size from Safeways and pinched the front bit to make sure there is enough room when I put them on my kids' feet. I have even put second-hand sandals on to my children's feet, and sometimes they only wear wellies for weeks on end.

And guess what? They have been fine: they have not developed bunions, pigeon toes, flat feet or strange postures. If I told this to the specially trained fitting assistants who spend their lives on their knees measuring the length and width of children's feet and feeling and probing for a perfect fit, I am afraid I would be asked to leave. In fact, it wouldn't be the first time. Once my (then two-year-old) daughter was so dismayed at not being able to get some glittery red Doc Martens in her size, that she slapped the shop assistant who told her the bad news. They asked me to come back when she was in "better spirits" and her brother and I slunk away embarrassed, with her screaming abuse over my shoulder.

The woman sitting next to me has daughter problems too. Her prematurely teenage 10-year-old is smirking at her mother's suggestions for school shoes, refusing to try on a pair of lace-ups that they have waited an hour for. The mother gets desperate at the thought of going to another shop and waiting for another length of time that she caves in.

"Go on, choose anything you want so long as it's black. You know your school insists on black." Silently the girl finds a pair with as much of a heel as you are ever going to find in a children's



shoe shop and the assistant comes out of the store room to tell them that they don't have any in her size. "You could order them, madam," the young assistant offers helpfully. "But we need them now. She starts school on Wednesday, you see." The mother is nearly in tears, and as they leave her daughter appears to be smirking.

All around are similar scenes. Anyone who has only had experience of grown-up shoe shopping would be absolutely appalled at the chaos and publicly displayed emotions here. Children run about whacking each other while others just loll around holding shoes that they have taken off the shelves. Mothers do not seem to have any sense of camaraderie, but view each other as annoying hindrances to getting the shoes that they want. Add to this a team of overtired and increasingly surly assistants (and who can blame them, when you look at their customers?) and you get the picture.

When it is finally our turn, I have already promised my two all sorts of delicious bribes so they will desist from hurting each other while we are in the shop. They have both decided on their top four choices of shoe so that we will have something to fall back on if the shop does not have what they want.

Our nice young assistant admits that the pre-school days are "hell on earth" and that he feels like offering incentives for mothers to come back in a couple of days' time.

My children do not humiliates me this time. They both walk up and down when they are told to, so that the assistant can ask how they feel. Amazingly enough, it takes only 30 minutes for them both to be happily fitted into shoes that they are both so thrilled by that they sleep with them on their pillows.

Tomorrow - haircuts!

It's like a scene from Vermeer or Pieter de Hooch: Interior with Seamstress, School Uniform and Cash's Name Tapes. In the middle of the kitchen sits the children's nanny, laboriously sewing little white tags on to a bewildering succession of garments.

"Games skirt - black," she recites, like a drill sergeant checking off recruits. "Shorts - black cycling Tights - black footless/footless?". Jogging trousers - black with white stripe. Leotard - black. Kilt - grey. Lab Coat... "I assume she is winding me up (what are they trying to turn my gorgeous daughter into)? A gym-haunting Amazonian boffin with a penchant for Scottish dancing? But no, they're all genuine school requirements; all part of the severe, monochrome wardrobe in which my daughter Sophie will soon be festooned, emblazened and be-knuckled as she starts her first term at the Big School.

How bad can it be? The school is not a boarding school. Sophie will not be lost to her loving family, communicating only in tear-stained letters written between Practical Torture class and double-period Pagan Rituals. She will be home every evening. The school isn't far, she can practically walk there. Many of her friends from Junior School will be starting alongside her. She has met the new class teacher, who is "terribly nice". Mr Blundett's proposed new strictures about enforced homework and mandatory bedtime will not affect the school

since it is private. Everything will be fine. So why am I so nervous about this small step along the highway of my daughter's education?

It's partly because she is. As she circles the pile of name-tagged uniform, marvelling at its comprehensiveness, ("What's the white apron for, Sophie?") I ask "Cookery? Dusting?" She fixes me with a stern eye. "Carpentry, Dad," she says. "Just carpentry", two kinds of alarm are gradually stealing over her.

First, the fear that she won't do well. I'm afraid of messing up the exams. I don't want to be put in with the thickies," she says. As if. And there's the other fear; equally irrational, that she won't have any friends, that she'll be ignored, disliked, picked on, disdained, found wanting or made to feel unpopular in one of the thousand ways 11-year-old girls can suffer for not being exactly like their peers.

It all comes down to that moment at break-time on the first day, when you first walk out into the playground. It supposedly decides who will be your friends and who your enemies; who will be the leaders and who the led; who will be the

style dictator and who style victim for the next few years, if not the rest of your life. "But sweetheart," I said. "You'll all be wearing school uniform. You won't be taking part in some trendiness contest. Nobody will be in pedal pushers or cargo pants or All Saints combat tops, or belly chains or hair extensions or blue-sparkly nail varnish or..."

"Daddy," she said. "That isn't the point. Everyone will be looking to see who seems nice, who laughs too much, who looks cool, who looks as if they might be friendly, and who looks a complete dork. You've got about 30 seconds to make an impression."

Me too. Ever there was a time when parents felt themselves under the scrutiny of the Big School down the road, it's now Junior School is a breeze for parents - because the scholars are so young, parents and teachers can pretend to agree that tiny delinquents are merely incorrigible and yelling neurotics. Merely highly strung. But once they're past 10, and are at least in the gravitational pull of puberty and moral choice, there's no hiding place. Your little angel is on a downhill race to being

grown up, and will be either a good or bad advertisement for how you've brought them up.

So as the first term approaches, the parents read the school's printed material far more nervously than the children at whom it is aimed. "Read the School Rules and the Uniform List," snarls a communication from the Head to all new pupils. "You have to obey them." Crikey! I sit and read the "Parents' Practical Guide to Homework" as it's the Ten Commandments I peruse the "Dealing with Asthma" letter as if it were a newly discovered missive from Shakespeare to the Dark Lady. I nod submissively as I'm told precisely where to find this item of clothing, and precisely how to pay for it. (And take your hands out of your pockets, you grabby little man.)

Smarting beneath the lash of the music department's score ("Please do not apply for piano lessons if you do not have, or are not prepared to obtain, a piano"), I watch my daughter talking to her mother about hem lengths. She has tried on the new school skirt and discovered it is an inch below the knee. Aaargh! Sophie knows it is social death to have a skirt anything longer than two inches above the knee. And some of the first-year girls are phoning each other in tears, because Peter Jones has run out of Big School blazers and they must suffer the indignity of their Junior School ones for the first week. Poor them. Poorer Poor me. We are all heading for a nasty learning curve.

My first day at school

INTERVIEWS BY
CAYTE WILLIAMS

Alison Roberts (half of fashion design duo Antoni & Alison)
Pashley Down Primary School, East Sussex, 1968



From the day I knew I was going to school, I'd known that my teacher's name was Miss Sykes. I had a huge fear of getting her name wrong and called her Miss Skies all that day and all through school. The more nervous I was of getting it wrong, the worse it got. My mum made me this pink cape with a fur hood and I remember walking along with my mum to school on the first day, trying to remember this lady's name.

I started school a bit later than some of the other children. I think some people started in September, but because my birthday was in February, I started in March. My mum took me to the school and I remember being really, really nervous. It seemed that everybody

knew what was going on apart from me.

I remember going into the canteen for school dinners. The dinner ladies would give you a piece of meat pie on a plate and you would have to help yourself to potatoes from this pot in the middle of the table when you sat down. I remember the children passing it around and I saw it coming towards me. I was very nervous.

Meg Henderson, novelist
St Philomena's Roman Catholic Primary School, Glasgow, 1954

I taught myself to read before I went to school, so when I arrived there was this great rumpus. I grew up in the Black Hill district of Glasgow which was a place concocted for the poor Irish Catholics in Glasgow. It was the safest and

most moral place I have ever lived, because the police wouldn't go anywhere near there so it was policed by the teddy boy gangs.

When my mother told the teachers that I could read, they produced a book with a smug look on their faces, but were shocked when I started to read. The teachers got stuck into my mother on the very first day, their idea was that learning was theirs to give, and not yours to give yourself. My first day was spent stuck at a desk and given books after book to read while the other children played with plasticine. I didn't realise it was a punishment.

I ran home to my mother at lunchtime to make sure she was still there. When I went back in the afternoon I read books. I was wearing a white frilly blouse, a little Royal Stuart tartan kilt, kilts shoes with big silver buckles on the front, and a big ribbon which looked like I had a budgie on my head.

I remember I was getting up quite excited because my big brother was already there and school. I remember getting all dressed up in that bloody outfit. My mother took me along to school and I remember that all these kids were crying because it was their first experience of being away from their mothers.

My brother was in the other part of the school, so telling him that I'd been to school was very exciting.

The funny thing was the teachers regarded me with some esteem, because everyone a school inspector came, they made me get up and read as an example of their success. I knew all the children who were in my class anyway because we lived in a close-knit community.

I remember running home from school, not only because I was excited, but because the gas works nearby opened up all their pipes at around 3pm and there were no filters in those days. If you were out-

side you got the full-blast of the sulphur.

When I got home from school, I couldn't believe that I had to go back the next day.

Sarah Carlton, Communications trainer
College House Juniors, Nottingham, 1968

My father was in the forces so I must have moved to a new school in both England and Germany seven times. The longest time I ever spent was in my last school which was for five years. The day I remember the most clearly was going to the second year of a junior school when I was eight. I was really nervous and I remember walking into the class. The teacher introduced me and everybody was staring at me. It was like taking a deep breath and jumping in to the deep end of the swimming pool.

While the teacher talked about me

ATTACK ON IRAQ

reckless actions have consequences'



War and the pity of war: A Tomahawk cruise missile (left) lifting off from the Laboon, one of the US warships in the Gulf region, and people who fled recent fighting sheltering (right) in a camp in the Kurdish city of Kirkuk

Americans lost in the moral maze of the Middle East

The moral was simple. Act like a beast and the B-52s will come winging in from Guam, just like they did yesterday. "When you abuse your own people ... you must pay the price," President Bill Clinton told Saddam Hussein. And even our very own Michael Portillo, Secretary of State for Defence, was thumbing forth about Saddam's "terrible record of humanitarian [sic] atrocities." All true.

Saddam Hussein is a wicked man. His prison cells are filled with torture victims, his henchmen on 24-hour duty - women are executed on Wednesdays and Saturdays - and his secret police maintain raping rooms below their offices. But if the military targets were specific, the moral indignation was also

If you are a friend of the West, however ruthless, you do not have to pay the price, writes Robert Fisk

highly selective. For if iniquity were the trigger for air attack, then the B-52s would be carpet-bombing the Middle East for weeks.

General John Shalikashvili, we are told, held a friendly conversation with Hosni Mubarak just before the cruise missiles were launched, to test the Egyptian leader's reaction to the coming blitz. Neither side would discuss their talk but we can be sure there was one subject on which Gen Shalikashvili did not question Mr Mubarak: the systematic use of torture by the Egyptian state security police on those suspected of violently opposing the regime.

Electricity applied to genitals, beatings and cigarette burns are routine in the intelligence offices at Lazoughly Street in Cairo and in Alexandria, where the general and the President were chatting. In two Egyptian jails, warders punish prisoners by forcing them to rape each other. More than 20 have been killed in one prison complex alone. But we can be sure that loyal Egypt will see no B-52s.

The Americans also called on the Saudis during their pre-bombardment tour of the Middle East. And here again, we can be sure they did not raise Saudi Arabia's habit of subjecting men and women accused of

murder, rape or drug-dealing to secret trials in which they often have no defence counsel - followed by public beheading outside mosques on Friday mornings. Women have their scarves removed before male executioners slice off their heads. A mother and daughter were executed this way in Dhahran; the youngest woman to be executed in the pro-Western Gulf, a Sri Lankan girl, was shot by firing squad just after her nineteenth birthday for allegedly killing her employer's baby, a charge she denied.

The whipping of young women by men is a common punishment for female prison-

ers accused of illicit relations in Saudi Arabia and the Emirates. But Saudi Arabia still plays host to 5,000 US servicemen and just happens to hold the world's largest oil reservoir. Very definitely no B-52s over Saudi Arabia.

Then there is the friendly little island of Bahrain, home base of the US Gulf fleet, from where its admiral was yesterday directing two of his warships to fire their cruise missiles at Iraq.

Less than a mile from the admiral's warroom stands the headquarters of Bahrain's security police, where the regime's opponents - who demand a return to parliamentary democ-

racy but stand accused of trying to overthrow the regime - are routinely tortured with beatings and genital - nor the massacre of 105 refugees in a UN "safe haven" in southern Lebanon in April, a bloodbath which occurred in the course of an offensive to which Mr Portillo originally gave his moral approval. Absolutely never-ever - will B-52s head for Israel.

Iraq's neighbour Syria has a dodgy record on human rights. The massacre of prisoners at Palmyra and the slaughter of thousands of Islamists at Hama in 1982, along with ferocious torture in the dungeons of five security organisations, is mentioned from time to time,

though not by Mr Clinton when he paid a state visit to Damascus in 1994. US commentators do suggest that if Syria doesn't stop "supporting terrorism" and sign up for peace with Israel, it may receive a cruise or two. So Syrians may have to watch the skies if they don't do what they are told by the Americans. But so far, no B-52s.

How President Saddam must look back at the golden days when we sold weapons to his army of torturers, when we supported his invasion of Iran, when we armed his artillerymen.

Because, when he did what he was told, no one wasted his time with talk of human-rights abuses. When you are a friend of the West, you don't have to pay the price.

Iraqi forces ordered by leaders to ignore UN no-fly zones

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Unbowed by yesterday's United States missile attacks, which he said caused little damage, President Saddam Hussein ordered his armed forces to down any hostile plane flying over Iraq and to ignore the Western-imposed northern and southern "no-fly" zones.

Wearing his field marshal's uniform, he addressed the nation in a five speech on state radio and television just hours after the missile attack on southern Iraq.

"You men of the air defence and falcons of the skies consider from now their damned imaginary lines north of the 36th parallel and south of the 32nd parallel non-existent."

"Hit back with capability and efficiency, relying on God the Almighty, at any hostile plane

the aggressors fly to violate the airspace of your great country throughout Iraq from now and in future," Saddam said.

Carrying out those orders, directed at both anti-aircraft gunners and pilots, would require an air engagement that Iraq avoided even when it had the far more formidable force that captured Kuwait in 1990.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Tariq Aziz, in a telephone interview broadcast live on CNN television, said: "Iraq will not tolerate this 'no-fly zone' any more. It has gone beyond reason ... [it] has been used as one of the means for aggression against Iraq."

Saddam Hussein said God "humiliated the aggression and the aggressors", stressing that

Iraqi losses were minimal. A spokesman for Iraq's general command of the armed forces, quoted on state television, later said that the US missile attacks had killed five people and wounded 19, including civilians.

"The sons of Iraq are on their guard for the aggressors, downing a great number of their missiles," Saddam said. He did not say how many US cruise missiles were shot down.

"Once again the humiliated and lowly Americans have come to perpetrate their often-repeated cowardly act by hiding behind technological development that God Almighty has turned into an insult on them," Iraq's President said.

Mr Aziz dismissed official US reports that Iraqi troops were still in Arbil or moving towards the Kurdish town of Sulaymaniyah as "deliberate disinformation".

Resist them and teach them a few lesson in the meanings which their humiliating and lowly souls do not carry," Sad-

dam Hussein urged his troops. Mr Aziz told CNN that Iraqi military units who had helped the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) regain the city of Arbil from the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) had returned to their bases several hours before Washington fired its first missile at Iraq.

"What we did was legitimate. What the United States did was illegitimate and against international law, against the letter and spirit of United Nations resolutions about Iraq," Mr Aziz said. "What we did was a responsible, positive, limited operation to help our people. We did nothing wrong."

Mr Aziz dismissed official US reports that Iraqi troops were still in Arbil or moving towards the Kurdish town of Sulaymaniyah as "deliberate disinformation".

Arabs refuse to back US strike

ADEL DARWISH

Cracks in the American-led Gulf war alliance were behind President Bill Clinton's decision to go it alone and launch a cruise missile attack on Iraqi targets, according to diplomats in the region.

Fearing a shift of the power balance in the region if the United States further weakened Iraq's power, Arab countries refused to sanction the US attack, and some Washington allies in the region condemned the action.

The 22-nation Arab League yesterday said the attack infringed an Arab country's sovereignty and the league's secretary general, Dr Essam Abdel-Meguid, said there was no international legitimacy for the US action.

It was an Arab League summit in Cairo in August 1990 that paved the way for the Arab-Western alliance led by the US against Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait. However, the US has recently found Gulf countries who readily allowed their air bases to be used in 1991 less compliant than they were.

United Arab Emirates, used by western forces during the Gulf war operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, appeared to be

backing Iraq's action in Kurdistan. "Iraq has the right to defend the integrity and independence of its territory," said one official in Abu Dhabi. The official UAE media said foreign intervention in Iraq's internal affairs was a violation of international law. The President, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, told the US ambassador, David Lytle, that the US should mediate between the fighting Kurdish factions if it wanted peace in "Northern Iraq". The term - as distinct from "Kurdistan" - was also used by Egypt's Foreign Secretary, Amr Moussa, before the missile strike when he called for "restraint" and defended Iraq's sovereignty.

The Egyptians played a major role in lining up the Arab coalition behind the US in 1990, but Cairo yesterday expressed its "deep concern" over "the current incidents on the Iraqi land", and called for "a full respect and implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions".

Both commentators on state controlled Cairo television and spokesmen for independent parties pointed out that Security Council Resolution 688, issued after the ceasefire to protect minorities in Iraq, had no provision for the use of force. The com-

munity also pointed out that the no-fly zone was imposed by the US and Britain, it is not mentioned in the resolution.

Similar comments, pointing to the ambiguity of the situation under international law, were expressed in newspapers in Saudi Arabia.

The weakness of Arab support for US policy is caused by a combination of factors. Many leaders face domestic fundamentalist opposition. The peace process with Israel following the election of a hardline Likud government is stalling badly. And a weak Iraq might tilt the balance of power in favour of Iran, accused by many Arab leaders

of backing Islamic terrorists. In Jordan, King Hussein has faced riots over food pricing. This week the Jordanians said they will not allow their soil to support any intervention in Iraq. Officials argued that the continuing policy of stopping Baghdad from extending control over the rebellious Kurds in the north and the Shia in the south was "a dangerous recipe and would invite countries in the region to use this power vacuum to their advantage".

Iran's official media said the attack was a ploy by Mr Clinton to boost his popularity before the US presidential election. But it also warned that the fighting could lead to a repeat of the Kurds' exodus to Iran. A similar point was expressed by Turkey.

Several Arab diplomats said they do not believe that the US has a meaningful strategy in the region, a point shared by some Iraqi opposition groups. "The missile attack shows that Washington is always ready for a reaction when Saddam makes a move every two or three years, but it also shows that there is no long-term American strategy in dealing with the current Iraqi regime," said Dr Laith Kubbab of the Iraqi National Congress yesterday.

King Hussein: Jordan will not be used in attack on Iraq

Annual current account charges

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| NatWest Current Plus | £108.00 |
| Lloyds Classic | £96.00 |
| Barclays Bank Account | £60.00 |
| First Direct Cheque Account | £0.00 |

call free
0800 24 24 24

or complete the coupon and post to:

First Direct, FREEPOST, Leeds, LS96 1FD

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms or Title _____

Surname _____

Forename(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

The City joins the Euro-propagandists

Hysteria and hyperbole are not, it seems, the unique preserve of Euro-sceptics. According to a chorus of alarmists this week, the City is under siege and the titans will pull out; the health of our financial services and our manufacturing industry is already being undermined by our hostility to the euro.

First big-wigs in the Square Mile warned that London's position as the financial centre of Europe would be jeopardised if Britain were left out of a European single currency. Michael Cassidy of the Corporation of London even claimed that "envious" French and Germans were conspiring to write the rules of the single currency to destroy London and rebuild Frankfurt or Paris in its place.

Then, in an interview with the *Independent*, the chief executive of Mercedes-Benz said he thought Britain would be a very attractive place to invest... were it not for the uncertainty surrounding the single currency.

These are strong words. At first sight they seem to boost the arguments of Euro-enthusiasts such as Kenneth Clarke, who have long feared the economic consequences of remaining outside a European currency. The costs of being an "out" rather than an "in" have suddenly changed from being the hypothetical babble of economists to the tangible investment and trading decisions of business people and bankers.

Imagine the demise of the City of London (and its £20bn overseas earnings) and the end to lucrative inward investment – all because we opted out.

However, Keo Clarke and his ilk should be wary of allies like the Corporation of London. It is true that there are important real costs to staying out of a single currency. The British people need to consider them. But the debate this week served only to exacerbate, obscure and confuse. As such, it could even be counter-productive for the pro-European cause.

London's pre-eminence as a financial centre will not be threatened by the emergence of the euro. London is by far the biggest currency market in the world, and commands a substantial 59 per cent of the turnover in foreign equities too. The idea that Frankfurt or Paris, with their tiny market share and their very different trading culture, could lure the big banks away just because of the euro is not plausible.

The London bankers claim that the French and Germans are conspiring to construct the single currency so that it is more costly to trade in euros from Britain than from euro member states. But the rules of the single market are unlikely to permit such unfair competition, and even if they did allow it, the costs of trading in euros from London will still be marginal in comparison to the immense advantages.

Moreover, exaggerating the threat to

the City risks discrediting and drowning out the very genuine risk to inward investment, one of the few economic success stories of the Thatcher and Major years. Factories built by the North Americans, the Japanese and East Asians, and even our fellow Europeans, have helped to rejuvenate our skill base, modernise our management practices and provide jobs in areas of high unemployment. If foreign companies locate new plants elsewhere because of the perceived advantages of a single currency area, the loss to the British economy could be considerable. Should the French and Germans go

ahead with currency union at the end of the century, the British people will have a difficult decision to make weighing the pros and cons of joining up. We will need to be realistic about the potential economic costs of opting out as well as the economic and political risks in joining a rigid monetary system. Exaggerations from particular interest groups won't increase our chances of getting the decision right.

But the claims by the Corporation of London are doubly dangerous. While the logical conclusion of its remarks is that Britain should join the euro, the logic itself is highly anti-European: the

French and the Germans are out to destroy the City. From such a standpoint, a single currency is not a constructive, co-operative European venture. It is an aggressive, competitive move cooked up by rapacious foreigners.

This picture of the plucky British democrats forced into currency union by the manouvering of the French and Germans risks increasing anti-European sentiments among the British people. Even more important, it will not reassure those nervous inward investors. For it is British belligerence over Europe, as much as the structure of European currencies, which is putting investors off. The British government appears so hostile to Europe now that companies fear their chances of enjoying a single market, never mind a single currency, are jeopardised if they operate from these shores. Were we to demonstrate more determination to co-operate, work closely with our European allies and participate in Europe, we could go a long way towards reassuring inward investors – even if ultimately we decide not to join the euro.

This week should have been a welcome and important turning point in the debate over a single currency. Until now, the British public have had to make do with only the shrill xenophobia of the Euro-sceptic right, or the evasive attempts of those in the politi-

cal mainstream to delay the discussion until after the election. For the first time this week the vested interests in finance and industry started to publicise the problems they will face if Britain is isolated in Europe. What a shame that the City missed the opportunity to better the European debate, and mimicked propagandists from the other side instead.

English homes and castles

English Heritage wants to list a score of post-war local authority developments. A boohoo echoes from Berwick to Brighton. Actually, there is a strong architectural case for most of the candidates. But accepting these candidates for posterity could mean riding roughshod over the principle of allowing users of buildings a say in how they are judged. The failure of some estates to provide reliable accommodation is an architectural failure, though it also connected to council budgets and social security. Still, functional ineffectiveness is a principle we have never let stop us admiring the works of antiquity. Some of those great castles were terrible to live in and quickly stormed. And what of the Colosseum, many of whose "users" had a hard time of it?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No, we can't go on getting deeper in debt

Sir: May I congratulate you on your leader ("Whisper it: Blair may have to raise taxes", 2 September). You leave out only one point: which is that the decline of our revenue base is largely a consequence of unintelligent cost-cutting.

All governments must count costs, but they must count them right. There is a Treasury guideline which says that any department planning to reduce spending must assess the consequent costs to the budgets of other departments. They do not observe this guideline.

When they first changed the trade-off between inflation and unemployment they failed to calculate not only the consequent increase in the social security budget, but also the consequent decline in the revenue base.

Today, when they introduce cuts in the social security budget, they do not calculate costs in increased spending on crime or health, nor revenue loss by loss of future employability.

When the Government, as an employer, goes in for "downsizing", it does not calculate the consequent loss of revenue. As a result, anyone who has tried to telephone a hospital or a railway station knows that the paradigm symptom of Conservatism is unemployment and understaffing both at once. In pressing for a deregulated labour market, they have not counted the cost of having employees who receive in-work benefits instead of paying taxes.

Conservative economy is the economy of a household which tries to save money by not mending a hole in the roof. It is an expensive habit and the sooner all parties realise it, the better.

Earl RUSSELL
Liberal Democrat Spokesman on Social Security, House of Lords, London SW1

Sir: Congratulations on your courage in headlining the unsustainability of present fiscal policies ("We can't go on like this", 2 September).

Your graph would be even more enlightening if it included the massive deviation between earlier optimistic projections of the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement, and latest actual outcomes/estimates. The 1994 budget showed total growth in borrowings of £9bn for the three years from 1996/1997, whereas additional borrowing is now projected at £48bn by the Treasury's admission, or nearer £70bn by outside estimates!

Clearly, we can now see that last year's penny off income tax was irresponsible. The electorate must realise that any further income tax cuts, without painful and massive economies, would be a profligate electioneering stunt, to be paid for by swingeing future measures.

PETER THURNHAM MP (Bolton North East, *independent*) Kendal, Cumbria

Sir: The constraining effect of a deficit is not merely that it forces a government down one of two politically impossible routes. In America, the former Senate Finance Committee chairman Daniel Patrick Moynihan concluded that the Reagan deficits were "strategic", in that their long-term effect would be to form a permanent barrier against social spending and other government initiatives. This even the modest federal infrastructure



Decide first, consult later

Sir: Christopher Foster ("The trouble with conviction", 2 September) is right to sound a warning about government consultation and the near sham it has become – certainly in education.

"Consultation" on the recent White Paper ends on 4 October. This date, and the details of where to respond, are buried in the first chapter. A leaflet with a summary of the White Paper proposals was sent to every school. It does not even mention that these are proposals for consultation. Strong rumours suggest that legislation to implement these proposals will be introduced in October. Presumably the details are being finalised now. No wonder cynicism about our political system is so widespread.

MARGARET TULLOCK
Executive Secretary
Campaign for State Education
London SW20

Sir: The chart under your headline shows something very significant: the country's finances fluctuated but the trend was mostly upwards until about the time that John Major replaced Margaret Thatcher. After that the finances plummeted.

After too many misguided Conservative MPs had re-elected Major in the last leadership contest, just over a year ago, my opinion was that we had no more chance of winning the next general election than if they had chosen Lord Sutch. I can see no reason to change that opinion.

R.C. ROSE
Pwllheli, Gwynedd

Mr Warren should be applauding electricity producers, because it is largely through their efforts the UK is one of the few countries on course to meet its obligations to reduce emissions of global warming gases by the year 2000. Further ahead, CO₂ emissions from electricity production in 2010 are forecast to be 25 per cent below 1990 levels. In the same period emissions from transport are expected to rise by 33 per cent.

PHILIP DAUBENNEY
Chief Executive
The Electricity Association
London SW1

Sir: When will someone invent a solar-powered air-conditioning unit? It is not quite perpetual motion, but adheres to the principle.

HAMISH KUZMINSKI
London SW4

Sir: The most objectionable aspect of the proposal to identify young offenders and thus to use shame as a correctional instrument ("Penal groups attack plan to name young offenders", 2 September) is that it will not work.

Offenders commonly come from family homes that have been fractured by poor housing and hopelessness (relative) poverty, or violence, or alcohol abuse, or delinquent associates. Rates of expulsion from school are rising alarmingly, and the offenders and their parents are already so socially detached from ordinary routines

and expectations that it is pointless to threaten them with the ostracism of being named as petty criminals. Being named in a rogues' gallery will probably be seen as an emblem of toughness by many culprits.

The scheme is yet another pre-election issue under which politicians can be seen to be "tough on criminals" while being evasive on the social causes of crime.

DR GARY SLAPPER
The Law School,
Staffordshire University
Stoke-on-Trent

Sir: Polly Toyubee ("Where do all the New Men go?", 2 September) may well be right in her underlying thesis, adhered to by a great many women: men are worthless.

Since men are worthless, they should be dispensed with. Step One

is a euthanasia programme for all adult males, except only those I in 25 or so who – after DNA testing based on results from the Human Genome Project – may qualify as having a genetic make-up socially worth passing on. Step Two is to apply the DNA test to all newborn males.

Personally, having sired a brainy daughter and being hardly economically productive, I should like to volunteer for euthanasia. The only problem is, my wife and daughter would miss me. Yes, honestly.

DAVID J BOGGIS
Orpington, Kent

Ambulances in gridlock

Sir: I presume Mr Rose, being from Gwynedd (Letters, 3 September), has overseen a fire engine or an ambulance racing to the scene in central London. The same roads are gridlocked every day, and with an average speed of 10 miles per hour it is not too difficult to imagine the problems faced by the emergency services.

The action of Reclaim the Streets would appear to be to highlight the ease with which roads can become congested and to make drivers contemplate other transport options which will leave these major arteries clear for essential traffic.

ROBIN DUCKWORTH
St Albans Hospital,
St Albans,
Hertfordshire

Sir: Mark Rasmussen (Letters, 3 September) observes how much better the lot of the pedestrian would be if drivers at intersections had to wait for pedestrians to cross before turning. That is precisely what the Highway Code says they should do. Rule 108 (1993 edition) reads: "Give way to pedestrians crossing a road into which you are turning."

The problem is not the rules of road, but the near-universal ignorance and indifference to them. Whereas these rules apply to all classes of road users, drivers of motor vehicles are uniquely equipped to do damage and make a nuisance of themselves.

IAN MILLER
E-mail:
ian.miller@bifrost.demon.co.uk

Music lessons are for art's sake

Dear Sir: I was interested to read about the Swiss research which confirms what many of us in the trade know through experience – that music lessons can boost a child's reading ability and language development ("Look, listen and learn", 29 August).

But if those who are trying to promote music in schools seize on this "transfer effect" as evidence for the value of music in the curriculum, they are falling into the age-old trap of utilitarianism. They should instead concentrate on the fact that musical activity – the handling of non-verbal sounds in time – is a unique form of human experience, a unique way of knowing and of expression.

As music therapists can tell us, music gets through to both young and old when other channels of communication are blocked. All children, and not merely those who are "gifted", benefit from musical experiences.

If music and the other expressive arts are elbowed out of the curriculum in the political clamour for more time for the 3Rs and science, we shall be educating a generation of young people who are using, literally, only part of their brains.

Teachers need to encourage children to think not only logically, but laterally and imaginatively as well. That wider mode of thinking will stand them in good stead in adulthood, whatever their job.

BARBARA POINTON
Former Head of Music, Homerton College, Cambridge, Raydon, Hertfordshire

Sir: On Saturday I found myself in the company of four young teachers ("Labour warns of acute teacher shortage", 2 September). One, an art educator, had already left school work to undertake further training. She will not return to teaching "if she can help it". All the other three, one primary and two secondary, are considering leaving the profession.

The reason? The stressful conditions under which they now work. Criticised by anyone seeking a scapegoat for social problems – the Government, parents, the media – they know how seriously they take the job they do and just how hard it has become. They also feel, by comparison with professional peers in the legal and business fields, profoundly undervalued.

The issues lies in neatly with correspondence on the need for child care at school age (Letters, 2 September). The way many parents now order their lives is seriously affecting the nature of the job that teachers do.

Try to imagine the pressure on one teacher from 30 children clamouring for the attention that two working parents are unable to give at home.

PATRICIA GRAHAM
Tonbridge, Kent

Sir: Does Bridget Jones exist? Does she look like the photograph beside her column (Bridget Jones's Diary, 28 August)?

If the answer to both these questions is "yes" then I would like to propose marriage – pending her return from incarceration.

TURKSON
London SE5

Beloved Bridget
Sir: Does Bridget Jones exist? Does she look like the photograph beside her column (Bridget Jones's Diary, 28 August)?

If the answer to both these questions is "yes" then I would like to propose marriage – pending her return from incarceration.

TURKSON
London SE5

analysis

The West's fantasy firepower

We have the military and technical might to deal with Saddam Hussein, but without the political will does international peacekeeping make sense, asks Patrick Cockburn

From the ground an incoming Tomahawk missile looks like a sinister black torpedo as it skims towards its target 500 feet above the ground. During the Gulf war its highly publicised ability to strike its target accurately from long distances made it a symbol of American military superiority over Iraq.

Five years on, the 27 Cruise and Tomahawk missiles fired on the orders of President Clinton yesterday at military targets in southern Iraq are more an expression of frustration and impotence. Nobody expects that they will accomplish much in reversing the impact of the takeover of Arbil, the Kurdish capital, by Saddam Hussein's newly acquired Kurdish allies backed by Iraqi tanks.

At first sight the Iraqi leader appears to have succeeded in doing what he signally failed to do when he invaded Kuwait in 1990. By withdrawing his troops rapidly he has robbed the US and its allies of a clear military and political target against which they can retaliate.

In the longer term Saddam Hussein's move may not be quite so astute. As in the past he has probably overplayed his hand. He has reasserted Iraqi authority in parts of Kurdistan, but at the cost of delaying the oil-for-food plan agreed by the UN Security Council. Before the incursion into Arbil, Iraq was expecting to sell 600,000 barrels of oil a day from later this month.

President Clinton is also damaged because the Iraqi attack gives international publicity to what has been evident in the Middle East for many months: that the Gulf war settlement is looking very ragged. This is not surprising. The vacuum of power that opened up when Iraqi Kurds set up a quasi-state in 1991 was always going to such in Iran, Turkey and the Kurds' old masters in Baghdad.

Yet the US has done little in the past four years except try to freeze the situation in Iraq as it



Top guns? A US F14D support Tomcat takes off from the USS Carl Vinson in the Gulf. But the action leaves the Gulf war settlement looking decidedly ragged

Photograph: AFP

was after Saddam Hussein's defeat in Kuwait. The Kurds were not allowed to set up their own state. Members of the Foreign Office always refer to "northern Iraq", not Kurdistan, but at the cost of delaying the oil-for-food plan agreed by the UN Security Council. Before the incursion into Arbil, Iraq was expecting to sell 600,000 barrels of oil a day from later this month.

The 27 Cruise and Tomahawk missiles ... are more an expression of frustration and impotence

whose divisions led to renewed Iraqi intervention, were given an impossible hand to play. It was always likely that they would look for outside allies in Tehran, Baghdad and Washington to make up for their own lack of strength. President Clinton, might have avoided the

justification of the American security protectorate over Saudi Arabia and the Gulf oil states. There is no doubt that Washington would like to get rid of Saddam Hussein, but it has always wanted to do so in a way which does not benefit Iran. This means preserving the Iraqi military establishment and avoiding the rise of a regime dependent on Iraqi Shia Muslims, who make up a majority of the population.

The Gulf conflict was a very conservative war. It was fought to return the Middle East to the status quo ante before Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. In the weeks before the fighting started, a meeting of senior British officials, including all UK ambassadors from the Gulf, concluded that it would be counter-productive for the West and its local allies to continue on to Baghdad and overthrow Saddam. Their reasoning was that if they occupied Baghdad they would be forced to call elections within six months. These, in turn, would be likely to produce a democratic government dominated by the Shia and possibly sympathetic to Iran. Nothing could be more destabilising to the Sunni Muslim rulers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain.

This was always misleading. Allied claims were exaggerated. Pilots claimed that in the Western Desert of Iraq they had hit 90 Scud launchers that were firing at Israel. An official report, sponsored by the US air force after the war, concluded that the real figure was nil. The pictures which had been shown on video by the attacking aircraft showed that most of the targets destroyed were flattened or petrol tanks on the road to Jordan driven by Filipinos. Iraq lost more than 2,000 tanks in the war, but when a sample of these were examined by allied experts they concluded that only 10 per cent of these had been destroyed from the air. The rest had sim-

ply been abandoned by their crews.

These exaggerated accounts have been criticised in American official reports since the war. The latest, by the Government Accounting Office, revealed that the Stealth bombers had been far less effective than claimed at the time. The author of the report is believed to have spent one year writing it and three years trying to get permission to publish it. Yet the original picture of the war as portrayed by US television in the euphoria of victory has never disappeared. President Clinton had to order the firing of Cruise and Tomahawk missiles yesterday because they are still associated in the minds of the American public with the bloodless victory and Bahrain.

President Clinton's difficulty is that the Gulf war was sold as a democratic venture. It was a tactical gain, but at what may be heavy strategic cost. The civil war in Kurdistan is not going to end. Jalal Talabani, the leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, is bound to counter-attack. The US will put pressure on Mr Barzani to end his alliance with Baghdad. Saddam Hussein may come to regret his renewed entanglement in Kurdistan, but for reasons that have nothing to do with Cruise and Tomahawk missiles.

The danger is, of course, that reality catches up. In the Gulf war an attempt to kill Saddam Hussein in the Amara shelter in Baghdad led to the deaths of 500 women and children. Israeli officers openly boasted at the start of the bombardment of Lebanon earlier this year that Operation Grapes of Wrath was modeled on the Gulf war air offensive.

Yesterday's article by Andrew Brown, "Can Proza destroy our free will?", was based on an interview with John Cornwell, whose book, *Mind, Medicine and Murder on Trial*, will be published by Viking on September 16, price £18.

Buy the mobile phone. Get the pocket TV free.

NEC

- NEW GSM MODEL G8.
- Up to 48 hrs standby-time*
- Up to 240 mins talk-time*
- 45 name/number memory stored on SIM
- Completes with 2 batteries and rapid desk top charger
- Last 10 number redial
- Weight 235g

*Cumulative figures when using both batteries



Please allow 28 days for delivery
LIMITED OFFER PHONE NOW
Guaranteed Peace of Mind
Your phone is covered by our 14 days no quibble money back promise.

ORDER NOW WITH YOUR CREDIT CARD DETAILS FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

FREEPHONE 0500 000 888
CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 5PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 4PM

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT HANDY WHEN YOU CALL AND QUOTE REF 4741. SORRY WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT SWITCH CARDS.
Offer subject to status, a standard adverse contract for each phone with Cellphones Direct Ltd. 10% Deposit required. Minimum usage charge TBC £15.00 and the phone set. Offer valid until 31st October 1996. Full written details and terms and conditions of this offer are available on request. © Copyright Registered No. 232722

For mad adverts, the Tory eyes have it

The Tories are not going to call an election this year, are they?

They have said they won't. Does that mean they will or they won't?

It could mean either.

So they might be telling the truth?

Oh, yes. By the law of averages, even the Government tells the truth from time to time.

Well, if the Tories are not going to call a general election this year, why on earth did they choose this summer to indulge in their advertising campaign showing Tony Blair with mad, staring eyes?

Oh, that was nothing to do with their election strategy. That was all part of their holiday campaign.

What does that mean?

When the Government goes on holiday, it likes to leave some trouble behind it as a kind of smokescreen so that they won't be required to come racing back from their holidays.

Which made a change from the silly season...

Hold on, hold on. Are you suggesting that this is the silly season?

So that's why they did that

ridiculous ad campaign showing Tony Blair with wild staring eyes, portraying him as Satan, etc?

They have said they won't. Does that mean they will or they won't?

It could mean either.

So they might be telling the truth?

Oh, yes. By the law of averages, even the Government tells the truth from time to time.

Well, if the Tories are not going to call a general election this year, why on earth did they choose this summer to indulge in their advertising campaign showing Tony Blair with mad, staring eyes?

No. He was back already. Michael Howard never takes holidays. He spends all his time in the office working on new ways to overwork the police and prison services.

But at least Mr Howard was able to call the heads of the prison services back from their holidays.

Which made a change from the silly season...

Hold on, hold on. Are you suggesting that this is the silly season?

So that's why they did that

Miles Kington

Yes. Isn't that so? Isn't summer the time when all the politicians are on holiday, so the papers have nothing to report but silly news?

Which necessitated Michael Howard coming back early from his holidays?

No. He was back already. Michael Howard never takes holidays. He spends all his time in the office working on new ways to overwork the police and prison services.

But at least Mr Howard was able to call the heads of the prison services back from their holidays.

Which made a change from the silly season...

Hold on, hold on. Are you suggesting that this is the silly season?

So that's why they did that

just for a moment. I have never known why it was called the silly season.

It wasn't very sensible this year, what with Tony Blair's staring eyes and all that.

Well, I must say that if the Tories choose to fight the next election on who has the maddest eyes, they are leaving themselves wide open.

One thing I would like to know. Why, if the Tories wanted to show that Tony Blair has wild, mad, staring eyes, did they not use the eyes of Tony Blair himself, instead of the eyes of an actor?

It was a joke that went wrong. The original idea was to use the eyes of Michael Heseltine in the advertisement, on the grounds that the Tories had the wildest eyes of all right on their own doorstep.

Why didn't this happen?

Mr Heseltine wanted to charge too much money for the use of his eyes.

Why didn't they use the mad, cold, staring eyes of John Redwood?

Unfortunately, Mr Redwood was away on holiday at the time

in another galaxy many millions of miles from ours.

Why didn't they use the mad staring spectacles of Michael Howard?

Tony Blair doesn't wear spectacles. Why didn't they take off Michael Howard's spectacles and use his mad staring eyes for the Tony Blair poster?

Michael Howard never takes off his spectacles.

Why not?

Because that would reveal that he had no eyes.

If Michael Howard doesn't have eyes, what does he have instead?

Behind those mad, staring spectacles, Michael Howard has only got tiny round close circuit security cameras, and a complicated autocue system which enables him to make long rabbish-raising speeches without looking at a script or indeed without thinking.

Is that true?

No. But it is an idea that the Labour Party has been toying with seriously for its next ad campaign.

Sorted for textured alcoholic fruit gel-carb

'Alcopop' drinks should not make us fret about teenage boozing, but about marketing taking over the good night out

You may have noticed there are some vile alcoholic drinks about. They look and taste disgusting and are consumed by strangely dressed types. Such beverages are sold primarily by the notion that they get you out of your head. They are named things like Headcracker, Snack Lifter, Owd Growler, Original Sheepdog and GBH. Do they encourage alcoholism? Quite possibly, but as men drink them no one seems to mind. Do they make getting smashed seem cool and grown-up? Yes, if beards and beer bellies signify maturity.

No, what we like to get worked up about is another kind of alcohol altogether. The "alcopops", the soft options that disguise the hard drinking that young people, especially young women, get up to. It is all a cynical marketing campaign to turn the nation's youth into lulus. And here's another one. A tangerine juice disguised as something you want to knock back while you are dancing around your handbag. Or while you're desperately trying to pull those dancing around their handbags. Or you've given up all hope and want something for bladdered people rather than

beautiful people. In other words - the words of the marketing reptiles - it should appeal to "the dance-floor element". A refreshing little "textured alcoholic fruit gel-carb" from Carlberg-Tetley delicately called Thickhead. It's interesting in a Spacecadet sort of way and it's hyped as an essential feature of a fun night out. I think the essential feature of a fun night is being sick in bins at bus stops, but I'm out in PR.

Actually no one could drink masses of this without gagging so the comparison with real ale holds up. Thickhead has done away with those dubious macho anxieties about the authenticity of booze. These new drinks are fizzy, fluorescent, infantile, saccharin-sweet and do a brilliant job of disguising the nasty taste of alcohol. While grown-ups may be most of us would down a bottle of vinegar if it said Fleurie on the label and some hyperactive hint on TV said it reminded her of Chanel No 5. Indeed the much-maligned alcopops are unpretentious little numbers which just zap you with their artificiality. Just what you'd expect from such post-modern little potions.



SUZANNE MOORE

They also come pre-packaged with a little post-modern moral panic about drinking and young people. Never mind the research which says that, as always, if teenagers want to get drunk, which they do, they spend their money on that which will get them drunk fastest - beer and cider. This new panic is imbued with the kind of memory lapses that one associates with progressive drinking. There have always been things like alcopops, but they were called shandy, lager-and-lime, cider-and-black.

It is not just lad culture in both its male and female incarnations that encourages excess. The gulf between old lad and old

old was never as big and bold and bad as everybody liked to pretend. If it was, how come you could buy Oliver Reed T-shirts at the Great British Beer Festival?

The earnest worry about children being lured into "offices" to buy alcopops because honestly they just didn't realise that these drinks had alcohol in them is premised on denial - denial about the culture our kids grow up in, where every soft drink is sold as if it were a hallucinogen, in which imagery, graphic design, video have been under the influence of rave culture for a good few years now; denial about statistics that show that legal and illegal drugs are simply part of everyday experience for the majority of young people. This is not the same as saying that all young people take drugs and drink, but some of them do some of the time. Just like the rest of us. Some lives will be wrecked because of it and some will be enhanced because of it. Among 11-15-year-olds, 17 per cent drink regularly and the majority do not have much disposable income. They are not the "reptile drinkers" of club 18-30.

The logical conclusion of niche market-ing is that new consumer groups have to be aggressively sought out. Drug dealers do it relatively openly; the drinks industry has taken to spiking lemonade in order to achieve its ends. Which is the more hypocritical?

What is most objectionable about these new products is that they no longer exist outside of the marketing loop. The line between product and packaging is blurred.

The package, the trends, the lineage definitions are conceived and a product invented to fit the bill. Portfolio products for portfolio times matching our taste for portfolio politics.

So don't worry your hungover heads about little girls drinking puke-flavoured Flavours for Ravers but ask yourself what happens when beliefs are replaced by "conceptual currents": when a good night out depends on a selection of chemicals specifically styled to match the radically revised cultural concerns of pre-millennial youth culture". It's enough to make you yearn for the good old days when Jarvis's melancholy little refrain "Sorted for Es and whizz" sounded just like the real thing.

You can't cure an adrenalin junkie

Danger, for some, is just too irresistible, says Charles Arthur

I am 80 feet up a sheer cliff, with one foot on a ledge about as wide as a finger, the other dangling, while I try to get my sweating hands to cling to the bulging rock in front of my face. I am breathing hard, and very scared. Some feet above I can see a break in the rock, the next hold I am aiming for. If I don't reach it, I'll surely fall off - probably 10 or 15 feet, until the ropes attached to my waist stop me, and bang me into the cliff. It'll certainly hurt. I can almost hear the adrenalin washing through my head. It's wonderful, a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Stephen Thorlby doubtless knew the feeling, too. He was the British leader of a mountaineering expedition in Pakistan, an experienced climber who with two colleagues was declared dead this week after being hit by an avalanche.

Afterwards, Stephen's father said: "I was hoping he would do this and then give it up." The truth, however, is that for many people such sports are the only way to make life worth living. If Stephen had conquered that peak, he would have had his sights set on others, too. The common phrase is "adrenalin junkie": someone addicted to the high of real danger.

Cave-diving, potholing, rock climbing, motorbikes and stock-car racing, cliff-diving, hang-gliding - all carry inherent risks, which to their devotees make them delicious in an increasingly safe world, where drugs have conquered old diseases, and better engineering has made cars and airplanes far safer than in the post-war years.

There are fatalities in all these sports, yet the really dangerous activities are those that we do not usually class as risky. Diving and swimming, along with horse-riding and rugby, cause far more broken necks than any "risk" sport. A higher proportion of people who swim beyond their depth off the British coast die than in mountaineering.

So why don't we talk of equestrianism, rugby and swimming in the same breath as cave-diving? Nobody looks at a rugby game and declares that it looks like a prime place for a serious injury, yet anyone gazing into the dark mouth of a pothole knows on a visceral level that it can't be a good place to get caught when the rain starts. Equally, people think that bungee-jumping is a harmless thrill, rather than a real risk - unaware of the fact that the shock at the bottom of the fall can damage the retina. To a real adrenalin junkie, it's the latter fact that would make the jump worthwhile.

At a time when we're surrounded by safety, hemmed in by cotton wool and told not to open interesting latches and intriguing doors, it's perverse and pointless to do dangerous things - which is exactly why some people have to do it. Stephen Thorlby wasn't the first, and he won't be the last.

Do women deserve the vote?

The female vote has kept the Conservatives in office. Can Tony Blair expect a change next time?

Women are to blame. They are like turkeys voting for Christmas: when they get into the polling booth they lose their heads. It is not at all clear that the suffragettes did Britain much good, for if they had not chained themselves to the railings we would have been spared the past 17 years of Tory government. If women never had the vote, there would have been no Conservative government since the war. (Not altogether a good idea either, perhaps).

Why is the polling image of British women something akin to Hyacinth Bucket? Analysing the 1992 election, MORI says the Conservatives had a 7 per cent lead among women, and that gender gap has stayed remarkably static since the Second World War. New Labour puts its faith in a new appeal to women voters: Blair, after all, is not laddish like Kinnock. But MORI say they see no sign of any significant shift: an aggregate of nine polls in the past three months still shows the gender gap at 7 per cent.

How should Labour politicians seduce women? Evidence from focus groups and polls is glum news. Women are not interested and know even less about politics. They hate arguments. They are less likely to remember what a politician said on television five minutes afterwards. They hate old Labour's cloth-cap image because it is not aspirational enough. They hate jargon and statistics but like to be talked to gently in parables that reflect their own lives. They don't like risks - and a change of government is a risk.

Politicians have to be polite about the voters, but the rest of us don't. What a dismal portrait of womanhood. Stupid, insular, selfish - nature's conservatives - is that it? I have to admit that this is not altogether news to those who have ever tried to mobilise women. In the heady days of women's liberation, the idea that we were going to mould women into a revolutionary cadre was always comical. Women are conservative with an infuriating tendency to be their own worst enemies (not all women, of course). They may be very good grumblers - they have plenty to grumble about - but grumbling is not a revolution.



POLLY TOYNBEE

Tessa Jowell, until recently Labour's Minister for Women - now promoted to something less depressing - has been a nationwide tea-drinker around the Womeo's Institutes, Townswomen's Guilds and their ilk. She has been, she says, "Listening to women" - an old politician's trick when you desperately want to win votes, but reckon you are probably on a hiding to nothing if you open your mouth.

She listened to women complaining bitterly at their multiple burdens - struggling to care for children and old people while working as well. They wanted fathers to do more, but they didn't expect the culture to change.

She found women full of fear of society falling apart, alarmed at what they saw as a collapsing social order with crime and paedophilia lurking on every street corner. The world was changing too fast and for the worse. Insecurity was everywhere.

Labour hope they can turn the blame for all that onto the Tories - and Tessa Jowell did find evidence that these women did partly blame a decline in community, in schools and the NHS on the Tories. But it still sounds instinctively conservative - a view of the world where change is dangerous and Labour may look like the devil you don't know.

Feminists smugly extol women's infinite superiority: mothers are best, men behave badly. Men are selfish, belligerent, sports-fixated emotional zeros who don't have real friends and don't know they are born. Matrarchy, says the myth, would mean peace on earth and bonding with nature. But on this evidence women can be every bit as awful as men - in their own way.

There are, however, glimmers of hope on the horizon for Labour. Young women aged 18-34 are more

likely to vote Labour than young men. But once they reach the 35-55 age group, they become three per cent less likely to vote Labour. Among over-55s, the gender gap yawns into a chasm and 22 per cent more older women vote Conservative.

The great question for Labour's future is: are young women a new breed who will remain more pro-Labour as they grow older? Or will they turn Conservative, like their mothers and grandmothers before them? Naturally Labour believes that young women are different. Unlike their mothers, they are not frightened of Labour as they cannot remember the last Labour government. The winter of discontent is all Shakespeare to them. Over-mighty trade unions bearing down on a threatened democracy is about as scary to them as the memory of dinosaurs. They will, Labour says, stay Labour as they grow older.

Another straw in the wind: a recent Opimio Research Business poll revealed that one third of 35-44 year old women who voted Conservative last time do not intend to do so this time (though they are still dithering). New polling evidence from the Fawcett Society, to be published next Monday, will suggest that the gender gap is the widest among the lowest social groups - with many more DE women voting Conservative than DE men. AB women and men vote much the same.

However, Labour might draw most hope from across the Atlantic, where women have become markedly more likely to vote Democrat. As the US election gets into its final stretch Bill Clinton is leading among women voters by a spectacular margin. If he wins, it will be because of women: amongst whom he is ahead by 16 per cent, while Gore leads by 6 per cent among male voters.

It was not always so. In the 1950s American women voted as their husbands or fathers told them. That began to change in the 1960s and 70s. Since 1990 the gap has widened sharply. A survey last year found that two thirds of women voted differently from their husbands. Many men don't know that - half of them thought their wives voted as they did. Over the years similar surveys in Britain found men assuming their

wives voted with them, but in the secrecy of the polling booth more women were sneaking off to vote Tory. The treacherous women's vote may explain why so many voters lie to pollsters.

When women voters stayed home in the 1994 US Congressional elections, the Republicans swept in. But women are rallying to Clinton again because of his pro-abortion policy, his brave stand on gun and tobacco controls and women voters like Hillary Clinton. Jo Ameria, a powerful Democratic women's organisation has

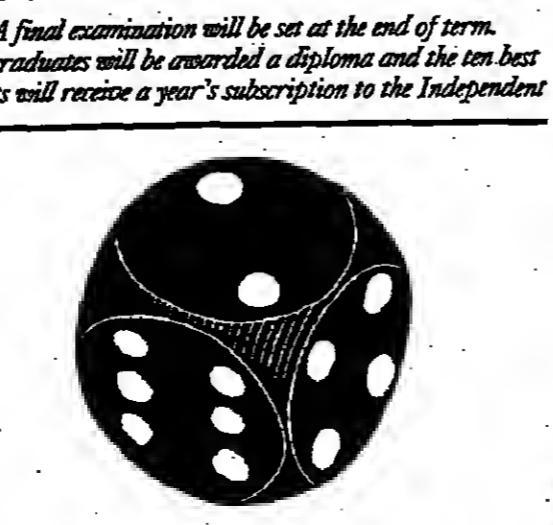
been urging women to get out there and vote, with the rousing slogan, "When Women Vote, Women Win!"

In Britain, however, although more women bother to vote than men, the opposite has been true until now. When women vote, women lose: they vote Tory although Labour has always had apparently a more pro-women platform, from equal opportunities to welfare and a minimum wage. But are British women voters about to follow their American sisters, and for the first time march to the left?

THE CENTRAL FACTS FROM THE COURSES YOU ALWAYS MEANT TO TAKE, IN 25 LECTURES



WEEK 5 DAY 3
Logic
VISITING LECTURER: David Bodanis



A final examination will be set at the end of term.
All graduates will be awarded a diploma and the ten best results will receive a year's subscription to the *Independent*.

A compact way of noting such assertions is "For any x , if x exists, and if x is the king of France, and if x is bald, then the king of France is bald". (An example used by Bertrand Russell in his analysis of the logic of existence.) It's so pedantic that you can see why working scientists almost never use formal logic to develop new ideas.

But the pedantry reduces what's being said to a clean skeleton core, written in a form that even the lowest-IQ electronic circuits can follow. Computers positively thrive on such exact switching which is why their early development depended, crucially, on the exploration of Peano, Russell and other logicians early in this century.

Since then logic has developed in many ways. One way of deciding if Ronald Reagan really was responsible for winning the Cold War by raising Pentagon budgets is to explore the logic of "possible worlds", where you run the historical tape forward several times. In one version you would look at the world where an unknown named Lebed led a coup against Gorbachev and matched Reagan's spending; in another, there would be the world where Reagan's nuclear policies led to the war which destroyed 99 per cent of all earth life in the Great Cataclysm of 1985, etc.

PICKING THE PENNY SHARE WINNERS

PENNY SHARES OFFER AN EXCITING AND POTENTIALLY REWARDING WAY FOR THE PRIVATE INVESTOR TO INVEST IN THE STOCKMARKET

SPECIAL OFFER TO INDEPENDENT READERS
FREE COPY OF THE PENNY SHARE GUIDE

WE HAVE A GUIDE TO PENNY SHARES WHICH FEATURES RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CITY BROKERS ON OVER 100 STOCKS. THESE TIPS COULD TURN YOUR PENNIES INTO POUNDS

THE GUIDE NORMALLY COSTS £3.00

For a FREE copy complete and return coupon or FREEPHONE

0800 850 661

ISSUED BY Hargreaves Lansdown Asset Management Limited
Kendal House, 4 Brighton Mews, Clifton, Bristol, BS2 2NX
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority

Please send me a FREE Guide to Penny Shares

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel: (0117) 988 9880

Tomorrow: Ethics

unit trusts

15

Foreign Exchange Rate

| Foreign Exchange Rates | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------|---------|----------|-------|---------|----------|--------|
| STERLING | | | DOLLAR | | | D-MARK | |
| Country | Spot | 1 month | 3 months | Spot | 1 month | 3 months | Spot |
| US | 15579 | 5-3 | 5-2 | 1000 | — | — | 65237 |
| Canada | 21425 | 11-3 | 50-37 | 13697 | 2-1 | 24 | 92227 |
| Germany | 23274 | 52-46 | 150-142 | 14844 | 26-26 | 95-93 | 10000 |
| France | 75951 | 151-184 | 297-307 | 50221 | 78-73 | 220-210 | 34207 |
| Italy | 23729 | 48-63 | 142-158 | 1534 | 44-51 | 123-135 | 101554 |
| Japan | 17135 | 75-70 | 225-218 | 10829 | 45-44 | 136-133 | 73257 |
| ECU | 12387 | 15-11 | 45-40 | 12710 | 7-6 | 23-25 | 65200 |
| Belgium | 40345 | 11-8 | 31-28 | 30180 | 65-45 | 175-147 | 206009 |
| Denmark | 55605 | 159-165 | 446-235 | 57341 | 85-65 | 270-220 | 38425 |
| Netherlands | 26092 | 65-57 | 157-174 | 16641 | 25-32 | 177-102 | 12111 |
| Ireland | 64651 | 7-5 | 20-14 | 1246 | 4-7 | 12-17 | 6447 |
| Norway | 10075 | 120-50 | 310-200 | 84255 | 42-17 | 110-60 | 43267 |
| Spain | 19556 | 21-81 | 65-65 | 12538 | 23-27 | 64-72 | 844550 |
| Sweden | 10403 | 0-5 | 1-0 | 65387 | 3-22 | 40-11 | 44723 |
| Switzerland | 18928 | 54-45 | 165-152 | 12079 | 57-34 | 113-107 | 80137 |
| Australia | 15791 | 20-31 | 67-85 | 12221 | 18-21 | 54-58 | 86503 |
| Hong Kong | 1225 | 101-67 | 224-170 | 72935 | 2-2 | 15-55 | 52397 |
| Malaysia | 33161 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 24865 | 4-14 | 61-80 | 16834 |
| New Zealand | 22853 | 43-57 | 133-155 | 14447 | 30-32 | 58-90 | 9732 |
| Saudi Arabia | 58807 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 17507 | 2-7 | 9-14 | 25267 |
| Singapore | 22077 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 14081 | 41-30 | 103-68 | 69486 |

Environ Biol Fish (2007) 79:121–128

France
Intervention
NATO

| Italy | Prime | 700% | Spain | 10-Day Repo | 725% | Central | 300% |
|-------------|----------|----------|--------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| Discount | Discount | 500% | Sweden | | | Switzerland | |
| Netherlands | Denmark | | | | | Discount | 150% |
| Advances | 250% | Discount | 525% | Repo (Avg) | 5.25% | Lombard | 4125% |

Bond Yields

| Country | 5 yr | Yield % | 10 yr | yield % | Country | 5 yr | Yield % | 10 yr | yield % |
|-----------|-------|---------|--------|---------|-------------|-------|---------|--------|---------|
| UK | 7.1% | 7.25 | 7 1/4% | 7.05 | Netherlands | 5.7% | 5.32 | 6 1/4% | 6.31 |
| US | 9.24% | 8.75 | 6.9% | 5.95 | Spain | 10.0% | 8.04 | 10.6% | 8.25 |
| Japan | 5.51% | 2.32 | 3.1% | 3.00 | Italy | 9.1% | 8.91 | 9.16% | 9.57 |
| Australia | 8.74% | 7.75 | 7% | 8.24 | Belgium | 5% | 5.35 | 7% | 6.64 |
| Germany | 5.88% | 5.38 | 6.25% | 6.40 | Sweden | 13% | 7.35 | 5% | 8.18 |
| France | 5.74% | 5.43 | 2.25% | 5.42 | ECU Q4T | 5% | 5.80 | 7 1/4% | 6.91 |

Source: EDHEC Market Research Yield calculated on local basis. ** Denotes non-benchmark

Money Market Rate

| | 0 Night | 7 Day | 1 Month | 3 Months | 6 Months | 1 Year |
|-----------------------|---------|-------|---------|----------|----------|--------|
| Interbank | 5½ | 7½ | 5¾ | 5½ | 5¾ | 5¾ |
| Sterling CDs | | | 5½ | 5½ | 5½ | 5½ |
| Local Authority Deps | 5½ | 5½ | 5½ | 5½ | 5½ | 5½ |
| Discount Market Deps | 5½ | 5½ | - | - | - | - |
| Inventory Bills (Buy) | - | - | 5½ | 5½ | - | - |
| Dollar Curr. | - | - | 5½ | 5½ | 5½ | 5½ |
| ECU United Dep | - | - | 4½ | 4½ | 4½ | 4½ |

The Financial Futures

| Contract | Settlement price | High/Low for day | Last traded | Open Interest |
|---------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Long Gilt | (Sep 96) 106.30 | 107.09 | 106.18 | 52616 |
| German Bond | (Sep 96) 92.20 | 92.24 | 92.16 | 15422 |
| J. B. Bond | (Sep 96) 122.20 | 122.20 | 122.00 | 137 |
| Italian Bond | (Sep 96) 75.66 | 75.76 | 75.28 | 45323 |
| 3M Sterling | (Sep 96) 94.26 | 94.27 | 94.24 | 12968 |
| | (Dec 96) 94.27 | 94.27 | 94.24 | 16402 |
| 3M Euroyen | (Sep 96) 99.25 | 99.25 | 99.24 | 1420 |
| | (Mar 97) 99.07 | 99.07 | 99.06 | 756 |
| 3M Euromark | (Sep 96) 86.84 | 86.85 | 86.82 | 19984 |
| | (Dec 96) 86.77 | 86.78 | 86.74 | 38078 |
| E.C.U. | (Sep 96) 85.95 | 85.85 | 85.83 | 125 |
| | (Dec 96) 85.64 | 85.65 | 85.61 | 714 |
| Euro-sterling | (Sep 96) 52.01 | 52.02 | 52.01 | 2906 |

| | | | | |
|-----------|--------|--------|-------|---|
| EURO 50 | Sep 99 | 37.81 | 37.82 | |
| FT-SE 100 | Sep 99 | 3870.0 | 38840 | 3 |
| FT-SE 250 | Sep 99 | 4389.0 | 43900 | 4 |
| EURIBOR | Sep 99 | 91.99 | 9142 | |

| Euribor | Sep '99 | 91.95 | 81.42 | 91.36 | 70.902 | 4/21 |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------------------|-------|--------|--------------|------|
| Liffe FT-SE Index Option | | | | | | |
| Settlement price: 3855.00 | | Closing offer price | | | Call/Put | |
| Series | 3800 | 3850 | 3900 | 3950 | Total/volume | |
| Sep | 85/14 | 49/29 | 23/55 | 8/95 | | |
| Oct | 108/36 | 75/54 | 47/77 | 27/108 | | |
| Nov | 131/54 | 100/72 | 72/95 | 49/122 | | |

11-2

| Commodities | | | | | | |
|---|---------|----------|--------|---|-------|----|
| INDUSTRIAL METALS - London Metal Exchange | | | | LME Stocks | | |
| Volume | Change | Volume | Change | Stocks | chng | |
| S/tonne | Cash | 3 mths | Volume | | | |
| Aluminium HG1015-25 | 1005-07 | 7500 | 80300 | - | 3850 | |
| Aluminium Alloy | 1200-8 | 1200-500 | 185 | 80300 | + 220 | |
| Copper A | 3030-5 | 2024-50 | 70465 | 25575 | + 500 | |
| Lead | 1025-45 | 889-3 | 8437 | 10375 | + 150 | |
| Nickel | 750-40 | 7500-40 | 50481 | 30678 | + 401 | |
| Tin | 602-505 | 8250-55 | 4754 | 10440 | + 85 | |
| Zinc | 100-2 | 1034-5 | 10533 | 55205 | + 650 | |
| Sentiment Coefficient | BS | 500+ | SP | Stock volumes & change in tonnes as at Tues 3 Sep 95 | | |
| average price | £500 | 14807 | 10235 | | | |
| PRECIOUS METALS | | | | | | |
| per Oz/tonne | \$ | £ | Coin | \$ | £ | \$ |

| | | |
|-------------|--------|--------|
| Palladium | 395.75 | 252.80 |
| Palladium | 124.95 | 80.00 |
| Silver spot | 510.00 | 330.25 |

Dec 34900 Sep
Mar 34650 Vol:
Vol 4,597 Index

| Other Softs (Agricultural) | | | | | | | Source |
|----------------------------|--------------|-----------|--------|---------|-----------------|----------|--------|
| Mon | May (No.3)** | Stone | 14/50 | Sep | Soya Oil | Fl./10kg | 55.00 |
| Jul/Aug | Copra (1) | Stone | 75.00 | Aug/Sep | Coconut Oil (1) | Stone | 745.00 |
| Oct | Cotton (M) | U.S. cent | 76.00 | Oct | Safflower Oil | Stone | 552.00 |
| Oct | Wool | Acre/kg | 75.00 | Nov/Jan | Reprocessed Oil | Fl./10kg | 55.00 |
| Sep | Rubber* | Mon/kg | 333.50 | Aug/Sep | Groundnut Oil | Stone | 550.00 |

IPE 5.30pm Pobj Vr sqm
Oct 218 -0.21 15.1

| Nov | 205 | -08 | 1555 | Oct | 2010 | -35 | Nov | 234 | Heavy Fuel Oil | 151/158 |
|--|-----------|--------|-----------|----------|--------------|----------|-----|-----|----------------|---------|
| Dec | 2050 | -04 | 1585 | Nov | 1975 | -25 | Dec | 226 | Naphtha | 203/204 |
| Vol | 48572 | | Indic | 2181 | Vol | 2928 | Jan | 225 | EC Gasoil | 208/209 |
| *since 520pm previous day *Year ago prices show average for week | | | | | | | | | | |
| COMMODITY INDICES | | | | | | | | | | |
| *SGCI Indices | Base date | +Spot | % Day Chg | Dec 31st | % Yr-to-date | Year ago | | | | |
| Index | 1970-100 | 108.82 | -0.7 | 203.50 | -24% | 178.57 | | | | +11% |
| Agricultural | 1970-100 | 228.00 | -0.8 | 202.75 | -4.6% | 254.07 | | | | +54% |
| Petrol | 1970-100 | 20.00 | -0.2 | 21.51 | +1.9% | 19.67 | | | | +15.3% |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|------|------|------|------|
| Energy | 1955=100 | 1959 | +144 | 1963 | -133 |
| Industrial Metals | 1957=100 | 1959 | +155 | 1963 | -133 |
| Livestock | 1970=100 | 1959 | +133 | 1963 | +247 |
| Precious Metals | 1973=100 | 1959 | -28 | 1963 | +163 |

| Stock | Mid | Mid | Offer | Stock | Mid | Mid | Offer |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------------------------|------|------|-------|
| Abbey Equity Ser 4 | 2864 | 2865 | | Legal & General Managed Accs | 8558 | 8557 | 8558 |
| Abbey International Ser 4 | 2865 | 2868 | | London & Manchester Flexible Acc | 8557 | 8558 | 8558 |
| Abbey Managed Ser 4 | 7764 | 7808 | | London Equity | 8558 | 8558 | 8558 |
| Abbey National Managed | 3227 | 3230 | | London Mixed | 8558 | 8558 | 8558 |
| Abbey National UK Equity | 1448 | 1525 | | M & G Managed Bond Acc | 8557 | 8557 | 8558 |
| Abbey Equity Acc Ser A | 10653 | 10245 | | M & G Recovery Bond Acc | 8557 | 8557 | 8558 |
| Abbey Flexible Inv Acc B3 | 10653 | 10242 | | Machine Investment Managed | 8557 | 8557 | 8558 |
| Allied Dunbar Distribution Fund | 8470 | 8330 | | Midland Standard | 958 | 958 | 958 |
| Allied Dunbar Equity Acc | 10653 | 1778 | | Midland Special | 715 | 715 | 715 |
| Allied Dunbar Gen 4 Income Bar Fund | 2200 | 2050 | | Midwest Equity Fund | 350 | 350 | 350 |
| Allied Dunbar Managed Acc | 8545 | 8523 | | Northern Gilt Managed | 1625 | 1625 | 1625 |
| AXA Domestic Property Acc | 6550 | 6770 | | Northern UK Equity Fund | 1625 | 1625 | 1625 |
| AXA Equity & Lm Div Ser A | 5802 | 5823 | | Norwich Union Mgt Inv CL NUAM MF | 7700 | 7700 | 7700 |
| AXA Equity & Lm Div Ser B | 5802 | 5823 | | Norwich Union Unified Managed | 8554 | 8554 | 8554 |
| AXA Equity & Lm Inv Ser G | 2244 | 2253 | | Norwich Union Unilinked Wp. Profits | 8554 | 8554 | 8554 |
| AXA Equity & Lm UK Eq Ser G | 2244 | 2257 | | NPI Managed | 645 | 645 | 645 |
| Prudential Equity Fund | 10501 | 10524 | | Pound Equity Net | 3544 | 3544 | 3544 |

10 of 10

UNIT TRUST GUIDE

| | |
|------|---|
| d | ex dividend |
| e | ext charge applies when units are sold |
| buy | formerly 'offer' |
| sell | formerly 'bid' |

Morgan may have broken SIB rules

JILL TREANOR
Banking Correspondent

Peter Young, the Deutsche Morgan Grenfell fund manager at the centre of investigations into irregularities involving £1.4bn worth of funds, vastly exceeded regulatory limits for the amount which could be invested in unquoted securities.

This emerged yesterday as it became apparent that the hole left in funds managed by Morgan Grenfell Asset Management on behalf of 90,000 investors may exceed £150m by some margin.

Under guidelines issued by the Securities and Investments Board, unit trusts may normally invest only 10 per cent of their funds in unlisted securities.

But up to 28 per cent of one of his funds, Morgan Grenfell European Growth Trust, was invested in unquoted securities at the end of May, according to the unit trust's annual report.

The annual report also appeared to show that the holdings by the trust in unquoted and quoted companies exceeded regulatory guidelines than investments should amount to no more than 10 per cent of their issued share capital.

Fund managers may be able to exceed their 10 per cent limit if they can prove to their trustees - in this case the newly appointed Royal Bank of Scotland - that the companies in which they are taking stakes

are in the process of gaining stock market listings through privatisations or flotations.

Sources close to Morgan Grenfell insisted last night that this was the case with the funds managed by Mr Young.

Morgan Grenfell had continued to market the once-highly successful fund, along with two others, amassing 90,000 investors in them, before the three were suspended on Monday because of "possible irregularities on certain unquoted securities".

Those investors, in limbo yesterday, looked set to receive some good news by today with Morgan Grenfell expected to resume quotations in the funds.

"We are working as quickly as we can to get them up and running as soon as possible," said an Imro spokeswoman, Judy Delafosse.

"We have assurances from the company that no investors will lose their money. No unit trust has ever been declared in default," she said.

Morgan Grenfell Asset Management said on Monday it would meet its liabilities on any of the irregularities identified, which are believed to be substantial with sources insisting that losses of at least £150m may have to be footed by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell as a result of problems with valuing these unquoted securities.

Highly regarded Mr Young, 38, ran another of the funds in

which dealings were suddenly halted at the start of the week - Dublin-listed Morgan Grenfell European Capital Growth Fund.

Another manager, Stewart Amer, who has not been suspended, ran the other troubled fund - Morgan Grenfell Europa. But other heads may yet roll, sources said, already expecting bonuses to be cut. Europa was the top performing fund last year, according to performance measurement firm Micropal. But by August this year it had crashed down through Micropal's league tables to 95th place.

Morgan Grenfell European Growth was second to Europa in 1995 but had fallen to 127th at the start of August, giving a negative return of close to 10 per cent.

Peter Jeffreys, the managing director of Fund Research Limited, said he thought the European Growth fund had started building its exposure to unquoted securities last autumn.

"It has been significantly reduced since the annual report at the end of May," Mr Jeffreys said, noting that only in the last several months had the fund's performance been hit.

"The proportion in unlisted securities started to build up in August last year. I was surprised about the proportion invested ... but understood it was a short-term phenomenon."



In the spotlight: Peter Young is helping Imro investigators unravel what happened to two funds. Photograph: Investment Week

Market report: Footsie jitters after Iraqi flare-up

Investment: Blue Circle rides volatile markets

Unit trusts

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Warning on slow housing recovery

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Further evidence that the revival in the housing market has yet to filter through to the building industry came yesterday as three big groups warned of sluggish trading so far this year.

George Wimpey, the UK's biggest housebuilder, revealed that it had slumped into the red in the first half and said house price rises were still patchy.

Elsewhere, hopes of a revival in the new housing and construction markets were dashed after Blue Circle, which produces half of Britain's cement output, predicted that volumes would be down around 4 per cent in 1996, and IMI, a leading maker of copper pipes and valves, said it expected the recovery in the new housing market to be delayed until next year.

Wimpey, which earlier this year swapped its mineral assets for Tarmac's McLean Homes housebuilding operation, displayed the worst scars from the sluggish markets.

Profits of £1m were replaced by a loss of £8.6m in the first half of the year. The original Wimpey Homes operation saw the number of homes completed slump from 3,512 to 2,718, with McLean chipping in 2,303 units, slightly up on the same period last year.

The group played down reports of a booming house market, saying some sectors were more active than others, particularly more up-market homes and areas around London. However, although Joe Dwyer, chairman and chief executive, expects sales to be down for the year, he remains optimistic that the worst is now over. "There are, for the first time in many years, real signs of sustained improvement in the UK housing market," he said.

That was not a message which found much resonance at Blue Circle, which reported an 8 per cent fall in cement volumes in the first half. Ian McKenzie, chief executive of the UK cement business, said that the expected outcome for the year was very disappointing in view of expectations six months ago of a good recovery this year.

He also launched an attack on Government's "abysmally low" level of spending on roads and transport. If spending continued at this rate, it would damage the competitiveness of UK industry, he said. It was not good enough to expect the Government's private finance initiative to bail the country out.

Investment column, page 18

Fund manager asked for removal of trustees

Peter Young, European fund manager and a director at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, requested the "removal", or resignation, of the suspended UK fund's trustees, the insurer General Accident, in late June this year.

The usual reason for the retirement of a fund's trustee, which can take place at any time, is that the fund manager believes that trustee services can be obtained more cheaply or efficiently elsewhere. General Accident is believed to have been replaced as trustee by Royal Bank of Scotland.

One City fund manager, who would not be named, said: "It is

hypothetically possible for someone to sack trustees in order to cover something up or because of other disputes with them. But this is unlikely because they would soon be found out."

As hundreds of worried Morgan Grenfell investors jammed the fund manager's switchboard for the second day running, the company gave out scant details of events leading to the suspension of its two UK unit trusts and one Dublin fund.

Meanwhile, speculation centred on the health of Mr Young, who is currently suspended

from work by his employers.

Mr Young, 38, has been helping Imro, the fund manager's regulator, unravel what happened to the Morgan Grenfell European Growth and Morgan Grenfell European Capital Growth funds, the two trusts he managed.

One financial adviser, who would not be named, was yesterday telling his clients, many of whom contacted him as well as Morgan Grenfell, that Mr Young "has retired due to ill-health". It is believed this information was passed to him by company sources.

Mr Young was described by colleagues as a hard-working and conscientious fund manager. Married with two children, he has in the past impressed observers with his fund management style. In June, he was awarded the prestigious European Investment Manager of the Year award, by Investment Week.

An Oxford University mathematics graduate, Mr Young joined Equity & Law, the life company, in 1980, in order to train as an actuary. Two years later, before completing his training, he was switched to the company's fund management side, where he rapidly rose through the ranks.

Lawrence Gosling, editor of Investment Week, said: "My experience of him is that despite the fall in the value of the

funds he managed, there was no sense of panic at all. He told us that he expected it to happen and had extremely good reasons for it. Either he was very cool or he was a consummate liar."

An Oxford University mathematics graduate, Mr Young joined Equity & Law, the life company, in 1980, in order to train as an actuary. Two years later, before completing his training, he was switched to the company's fund management side, where he rapidly rose through the ranks.

One former colleague, who worked alongside him for several years, said: "He was very competent, liked by those whom he worked alongside and he took his investment responsibilities here very seriously. He was very diligent. I am very surprised to read of what happened."

Mr Young, who even then specialised in European equities, was headhunted in 1990 to join Mercury Asset Management, which he left two years later for Morgan Grenfell. He joined the European investment team at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, which has £70bn under management.

MGAM, which is headed by Keith Percy, operates through five separate subsidiaries, including the international division.

The international division is headed by Glyn Owen, and has about £10bn under management. Mr Young directly managed about £1.25bn in assets on behalf of more than 70,000 investors, while a further £133m was in the other suspended fund, Morgan Grenfell Europa.

In the past year, Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, as the company has renamed itself, has acquired a name for itself as one of the most aggressive operating in the City.

Mercedes warns UK is scaring away investors

ELISABETH KLEIN
and DIANE COYLE

Britain's lack of commitment to European Monetary Union is scaring away potential investors, claims Helmut Werner, chief executive of the German car giant Mercedes-Benz.

Mr Werner said yesterday: "We can't plan to invest in Britain within the next few years. But I am totally convinced that if the UK takes part in a single European currency, Britain will be a very interesting country for Mercedes to invest in."

He warned that earnings on investments in Britain, if it stayed out of the single currency, would become much more unpredictable than in countries belonging to EMU.

This would have damaging consequences for British companies as well, he believes. "UK suppliers would become incal-

culable to us. Due to possible ups and downs of the pound we would not know how much their products will cost us over a longer period. A free floating pound wouldn't support the British economy."

Since last year he, like a lot of other German managers, has become sensitised to currency risks. The big losses Daimler-Benz, the Mercedes parent, had to face last year were influenced to an extent by the strong mark.

Mr Werner said: "We Germans suffer from a strong mark for 11 months of the year. It is only in the 12th month when we go for cheap holidays in Italy that we are happy about our hard currency."

Mr Werner began to "globalise" Mercedes production in 1993, starting with its commercial vehicle division. The company plans to do the same with its passenger cars side.

He would prefer a united European money policy. France, pushing strongly towards Monetary Union, has already profited. Mercedes has decided to manufacture its new low-priced "smart-car" in France.

But Mr Werner, boss of nearly 20,000 Mercedes employees, emphasised that Britain can offer inward investors. "In the last 10 years the deregulated British economy has undergone some very positive developments, which have made it a very interesting market for us to invest in."

His remarks coincided with the release of new research showing that a quarter of Britain's manufacturing output is produced by foreign-owned companies, up from less than one-fifth in 1986. The increase has been driven by European investment, with EU, Swiss and Swedish firms accounting for two-fifths of the total.

The number of big EU multinationals producing in Britain increased from 13 to 27 between 1986 and 1993. There are now 15 European firms in Britain's top 100 companies.



Helmut Werner: Hard to use suppliers if UK outside EMU

Oftel attacks BT in competition row

CHRIS GODSMARK
Business Correspondent

The simmering row between BT and the industry watchdog, Oftel, over allegations of anti-competitive behaviour exploded yesterday when the regulator, Don Cruickshank, rapped the company for making "misleading or just plain inaccurate" claims about rivals.

In an unusually strong worded statement Mr Cruickshank issued an order forcing BT to tighten up its activities of its marketing team. He said there was "a very serious gap between BT's statements of good intent about trading fairly and statements made by customer facing staff which are unsatisfactory".

Oftel investigated a formal complaint by the Consumers' Association after Which? magazine published transcripts of interviews with staff in BT stores and on special phone lines set up to deal with customers contemplating switching to cable firms. The watchdog said out of a total of 48 interviews, 30 were "unsatisfactory" from a fair trading point of view".

Mr Cruickshank has previously welcomed moves by BT to beef up staff training and had been particularly pleased with the creation of a special department to deal with compliance matters. But yesterday he said these actions had not been enough, accusing the company of neglecting internal compliance procedures, a lapse which he said "favours BT by frustrating customer choice".

While admitting to "occasional lapses" by staff, BT vehemently denied it had deliberately misled customers. A spokesman said it had only detected two "genuine" occasions in the Which? evidence where employees had overstepped the mark.

finance accountancy & legal

A 9 page section covering vital issues in accountancy, public sector finance and the legal profession with pages of appointment opportunities

See pages 15 - 23
section two

To book your advertisement call
The Finance & Legal Team on
0171 293 2310

Every Wednesday in the

THE INDEPENDENT
section two

| STOCK MARKETS | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------|------|----------|----------|-------|----------|------------------|----------|----------|
| FTSE 100 | | | | | | | Dow Jones | | |
| 3855.90 | -28.50 | -0.7 | 3918.70 | 3832.30 | 4.06 | 10200.00 | 10150.00 | 10100.00 | 10050.00 |
| 4385.40 | -28.60 | -0.8 | 4568.60 | 4015.30 | 3.45 | 10200.00 | 10150.00 | 10100.00 | 10050.00 |
| 1920.90 | -13.90 | -0.7 | 1960.50 | 1816.60 | 3.93 | 10200.00 | 10150.00 | 10100.00 | 10050.00 |
| 2158.21 | -6.29 | -0.3 | 2244.36 | 1954.06 | 3.05 | 10200.00 | 10150.00 | 10100.00 | 10050.00 |
| 1908.89 | -13.13 | -0.7 | 1936.24 | 1791.95 | 3.85 | 10200.00 | 10150.00 | 10100.00 | 10050.00 |
| 5632.85 | +16.64 | +0.3 | 5771.00 | 5029.94 | 2.25 | 10200.00 | 10150.00 | 10100.00 | 10050.00 |
| 2018.18 | +91.04 | +0.5 | 2206.80 | 1974.70 | 0.781 | 10200.00 | 10150.00 | 10100.00 | 10050.00 |
| 10567.18 | -149.59 | -1.3 | 11594.99 | 10204.67 | 3.501 | 10200.00 | 10150.00 | 10100.00 | 10050.00 |
| 2510.77 | -22.11 | -0.9 | 2583.49 | 2253.56 | 1.821 | 10200.00 | 10150.00 | 10100.00 | 10050.00 |

business

Blue Circle rides out stormy markets

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

Blue Circle, the cement, heating and bathrooms group, at last seems to be perfecting the ability to ride out the widely different markets in which it operates. In the mature UK cement market, which it dominates, the group suffered a further 6.7 per cent fall in volumes in the first half of 1996, only beating the market average by a percentage point or so because of exports. By contrast, cement volumes jumped 26 per cent in Malaysia in July and in Chile Blue Circle managed to sell 48 per cent more ready-mixed concrete in the first six months of the year.

The US is just one area where the group is seeking to use its firepower for acquisitions. Even with £50m or so of capital investment planned over the next four years, minimal gearing means it could have £400m to spend on purchases in areas like the US, Argentina, India or South-east Asia.

So a 12 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £116m in the half year to June, on turnover up just 4 per cent, was a respectable result. The group is also making a decent fist of tackling stagnating building markets in Europe.

The biggest boost to the figures came from the boilers and radiators business, which was hammered by weak European housing markets last year. Cost savings from the £55m restructuring announced at the end of 1995 delivered all of the bounce in operating profits from £100m to £29m in the half year, although the comparison was flattened by one-off charges last time. With the German boiler and radiator market down 10-13 per cent, the trading environment is not propitious, so the full £25m benefit of the expected efficiencies will be important in the 1997 figures.

In the UK cement business, Blue Circle is dealing with maturity head on through a £30m investment programme. While adding no new capacity, the new plants should improve efficiency. If they come near the target return of 10 per cent they should double last year's £24m operating profit, which fell from £30.4m in 1995.

But the real growth story lies overseas. The US continues to power ahead, with the 5 per cent upturn in the market in the first half showing no sign of slowing in the aftermath of the construction boom surrounding the Atlanta Olympics. Profits up from

£21.3m to £25.1m have overtaken the UK and, with further price rises in the offing, the background seems set fair for Blue Circle's planned 600,000-tonne capacity increase.

The US is just one area where the group is seeking to use its firepower for acquisitions. Even with £50m or so of capital investment planned over the next four years, minimal gearing means it could have £400m to spend on purchases in areas like the US, Argentina, India or South-east Asia.

However, a repeat of Chile or Malaysia and Singapore, where profits soared 58 per cent, might be difficult, given the number of rivals with deep pockets planning a similar course. Meanwhile, profits of £200m or so this year would put the shares, down 3.5p at 373p, on a forward rating of 16, which looks high enough for now.

Speculation at Yorkshire-TT

A sparkling set of interim results from Yorkshire-Tyne Tees was overshadowed yesterday by speculation about

the future of the ITV licence holder. The question which continues to tease observers concerns the intentions of fellow-broadcaster Granada, which has a 24 per cent stake in YTT.

Analysts and investors are in little doubt that a takeover is coming, hence the whopping premium at which the shares are trading. Yesterday's announcement of an 80 per cent jump in first-half profits to £23.3m came despite disappointing returns from advertising. The group's share of national advertising revenues languishes at around 10 per cent, well down on its historic high of 14 per cent.

But programme sales more than made up for lacklustre advertising and cost cutting has continued. Emmerdale, the well-known soap, has gone to three episodes a week, while YTT has been contracted to supply three made-for-TV films for the US.

But the real story remains with Granada and what it does next. There have been several informal discussions between Gerry Robinson, chairman of Granada, and Ward Thomas, chairman of YTT, about how an agreed deal might work, and at what price.

Yesterday's 22.5p fall in the share price to £21.5p was based on the highly unlikely assumption that the company will announce a rights issue to pay for acquisitions. That looks far fetched. Even after yesterday's drop, the shares remain on a stratospheric rating, reflecting not just takeover prospects, but the likelihood that the huge licence fees paid by the two YTT/ITV companies will come down during the re-negotiation scheduled for 1997/8, and the probability that YTT's share of advertising revenues will come into closer balance with the region's demographic and consumer profile.

So how much will Granada have to pay? Full-year profits are likely to exceed £28m, putting the shares on a forward multiple of 36 times 1996 earnings. The expectation is that Granada could afford up to £14 a share, and still avoid earnings dilution.

The nervous should lock in profits and sell now, but those with a more robust constitution will hold on.

A question over timing at IMI

On the face of it, IMI's recent reshuffling of its business portfolio looks abysmally timed. At the beginning of the year it paid £134m for Heimeier, Germany's biggest maker of thermodynamic radiator valves, just as the German construction market all but shut down. It followed that up in February by offloading its titanium metal business to on Titanium Metals Corporation, the biggest US producer, just as orders soared at the jet engine builders which represent one of its biggest customers for the metal.

But the real story remains with Granada and what it does next. There have been several informal discussions between Gerry Robinson, chairman of Granada, and Ward Thomas, chairman of YTT, about how an agreed deal might work, and at what price.

Yesterday's 22.5p fall in the share price to £21.5p was based on the highly unlikely assumption that the company will announce a rights issue to pay for acquisitions. That looks far fetched.

Even after yesterday's drop, the shares remain on a stratospheric rating, reflecting not just takeover prospects, but the likelihood that the huge licence fees paid by the two YTT/ITV companies will come down during the re-negotiation scheduled for 1997/8, and the probability that YTT's share of advertising revenues will come into closer balance with the region's demographic and consumer profile.

So how much will Granada have to pay? Full-year profits are likely to exceed £28m, putting the shares on a forward multiple of 36 times 1996 earnings. The expectation is that Granada could afford up to £14 a share, and still avoid earnings dilution.

A lecture on how to lose millions

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK

An entrepreneur who headed two businesses that went bust, and who went into personal insolvency two years ago, has been made visiting professor at Sunderland University's Business School.

John Broome is to head up the team of principal and senior lecturers who will teach the country's first degree course in themed leisure management design.

Mr Broome first sprang to fame with Altoo Towers, which he developed as a leisure park in the 1970s and then sold to Pearson in 1990 for £60m. Then in 1987 he bought Battersea Power Station in London and things turned sour. His ambitious project to turn the site into a leisure attraction, a scheme personally launched by Margaret Thatcher, went into liquidation in April 1994 with a deficiency of £75.8m.

Still enthused by big projects, he launched a £22m re

development of Carden Park in Cheshire. Bank of Scotland sent in the receivers in October 1994. Developer Steve Morgan then bought Carden from the receivers. According to receivers, creditors suffered losses of "many millions of pounds".

There were more losses when Mr Broome entered an individual voluntary arrangement with his creditors to pay off his personal debts later in 1994.

Mr Broome said yesterday that he was "delighted" by the professorship. "It is a considerable accolade to be awarded such a post and to be able to pass one's knowledge on to the younger generation in this field..."

Malcolm Shearson, an insolvency practitioner with Grant Thornton who was involved in the Carden receivership, said: "It does prove that there are opportunities after insolvency."



Thinking big: John Broome in the bowels of Battersea

To the Bank of England's Museum, tucked away in the Bartholomew Lane entrance, where curator John Keyworth lets slip some of the facts not found in the guide books.

According to Mr Keyworth, the most popular exhibit is the pile of gold bars in the middle of the Rotunda. "They're actually made from debtors' paste," he says, deflatingly. "The owners of the gold we keep (the Government) wouldn't allow us to show the real stuff."

There are two real bars, bought for the museum, but you'll have to guess which.

Mr Keyworth and his colleagues have been advising the German Bundesbank on its own planned museum although the 1939-45 years have proved a touchy subject. It seems that Basil Fawlty's "Don't mention the War" may well be its slogan.

Stagecoach is paying £115.6m in cash for Swebus and taking on debt and accrued interest of £217m. The deal follows its controversial £282.5m acquisition of the train leasing company Porterbrook last month from a management buyout team.

Swebus, owned by the Swedish national railway, made pre-tax profits of Swedish kroner 111m (£9.8m) last year on turnover of Skr3.2bn and controls 30 per cent of Sweden's bus market, but only 3 to 4 per cent of the Nordic markets outside Sweden.

However feebly our athletes did at the Atlanta Olympics, console yourself with the thought that one Birmingham company won four gold medals. IMI's chief executive Gary Allen is rightly pleased as punch that the group's Brummen subsidiary, Eley, made the ammunition for four of the gold medallists in the small bore shooting competition.

Shooters from Russia, China, Yugoslavia and France found the bulletseve with Eley ammo.

Mr Allen, who has been at IMI for around 30 years, also points out that all of Eley's bullets are used in peacetime target shooting, with none going to the military. So Eley wins the Green as well.

Swebus the start expansion in Europe

MICHAEL HARRISON

Stagecoach, the acquisitive and aggressive bus and rail operator, yesterday served notice that it planned to expand further into Europe as it sealed the £230m takeover of the state-owned Swedish bus group Swebus.

Chairman Brian Souter said that the acquisition of Swebus, the biggest bus operator in the Nordic region with a fleet of 3,450 buses and 6,200 staff, would provide a strong platform for further expansion in the area and other parts of Europe.

The group, which controls 18 per cent of the British bus market and operates the South West Trains franchise into London's Waterloo station, aims to increase turnover four-fold to £2bn by the end of the decade.

Stagecoach is paying £115.6m in cash for Swebus and taking on debt and accrued interest of £217m. The deal follows its controversial £282.5m acquisition of the train leasing company Porterbrook last month from a management buyout team.

Swebus, owned by the Swedish national railway, made pre-tax profits of Swedish kroner 111m (£9.8m) last year on turnover of Skr3.2bn and controls 30 per cent of Sweden's bus market, but only 3 to 4 per cent of the Nordic markets outside Sweden.

Whether any of the ad people will survive to service their clients, such as Lloyds TSB, Calvin Klein and Unilever, remains to be seen.

Chris Ingram, chairman and chief executive of advertising company CJA Group, is taking his entire 200-strong workforce on an adventure jaunt to Picklewick Park near Haywards Heath, West Sussex.

Mr Ingram and his finance director Peter Toynton will lead the gang on a helicopter treasure hunt, as well as a highly violent version of it's a Knockout. The latter includes rocket firing, mortar combat and a pump-action shotgun duel.

Whether any of the ad people will survive to service their clients, such as Lloyds TSB, Calvin Klein and Unilever, remains to be seen.

However feebly our athletes did at the Atlanta Olympics, console yourself with the thought that one Birmingham company won four gold medals.

IMI's chief executive Gary Allen is rightly pleased as punch that the group's Brummen subsidiary, Eley, made the ammunition for four of the gold medallists in the small bore shooting competition.

Shooters from Russia, China, Yugoslavia and France found the bulletseve with Eley ammo.

Mr Allen, who has been at IMI for around 30 years, also points out that all of Eley's bullets are used in peacetime target shooting, with none going to the military. So Eley wins the Green as well.

Airbus unveils \$3bn orders to update fleets

CHRIS GODSMARK

Business Correspondent

Airbus yesterday revealed a batch of orders for up to 38 planes estimated to be worth around \$3bn (£1.9bn), providing further evidence of the recovery in the market for civil aircraft as carriers replace outdated fleets.

On the second day of the Farnborough Airshow the European plane-making consortium revealed its first order with the fast-growing South Korean carrier, Asiana Airlines, for 18 of the A321 medium-haul planes to operate on domestic routes.

The consortium refused to put a value on the order, which will run until 2003, though it is thought to be worth up to \$1bn (£650m).

The news confirms Airbus's increasing success in attracting customers from the Far East, forecast to see a massive air travel increase into the next century.

Another deal announced yesterday was to supply Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific Airways with a further three long-haul A340-300s. Earlier this year Airbus secured a \$1.5bn (£1bn) order to supply 30 A320 aircraft to China.

On top of the Asian orders, Airbus said Federal Express, the US cargo delivery giant, was buy-

ing 11 A300/600s to add to its 25 strong fleet already in service with the company. But confusion surrounded news of an option by Condor, the German charter airline, to buy 12 A320s. Condor denied it had made a commitment though Airbus claimed it had signed a memorandum of understanding, the precursor to a firm deal, and described current talks as "serious".

The news followed Monday's announcement by Boeing of orders worth more than \$6bn. Airbus had planned to reveal its orders directly after Boeing, but had to delay a news conference

when the floor of the Farnborough press centre collapsed.

Meanwhile, the row between the two manufacturers continued over whether Airbus's plan for a massive "super-jumbo", the A3XX, could be viable. Boeing had claimed demand from the carriers market for airliners with more than 500 seats was one-third of that anticipated by Airbus.

Yesterday it emerged that British Airways has backed Airbus's development work BA, which is talking to Airbus and Boeing, is understood to view a 600-seater plane as "the ideal size".

| | Total rev £ | Pre-tax £ | EPS | Dividend |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Argent Group (1) | - (-) | 2.06m (1.15m) | 2.6p (1.7p) | +1% |
| Banca Carige (1) | 874m (840m) | 11.0m (10.4m) | 8.6p (8.4p) | 4.25p (4.0p) |
| Calico Concrete (1) | 15.8m (11.8m) | 1.41m (1.21m) | 1.6p (1.4p) | 0.35p (0.40p) |
| Carlsberg (1) | 220m (220m) | 22.5m (21.5m) | 11.5p (10.9p) | 3.45p (3.25p) |
| Chase Motor (1) | 124m (55.6m) | 2.55m (1.27m) | 10.1p (6.4p) | 2p (1.675p) |
| DHL (1) | 652m (655m) | 29.8m (33.8m) | 7.06p (7.35p) | 1.8p (1.55p) |
| Elliott (1) | 622m (619m) | 120m (49.0m) | 51.1p (32.5p) | 5p (4.80p) |
| Exel (1) | 17.2m (15.2m) | 1.7m (1.42m) | 8p (6.5p) | 2.2p (2.1p) |
| Fluor (1) | 23.2m (23.0m) | 12.2m (11.6m) | 37.5p (35.2p) | 24.25p (22.25p) |
| Marconi (1) | 30.1m (34.1m) | 1.58m (1.3m) | 6.45p (5.40p) | 1.2p (1.1p) |
| McDonnell Douglas Corp (1) | 27.9m (23.5m) | 2.55m (3.57m) | 4.65p (4.55p) | 1.84p (1.80p) |
| Siemens (1) | 13.4m (12.9m) | 1.88m (2.12m) | 4.8p (5.50p) | 3.5p (3.50p) |
| Transfers (1) | - (-) | 1.0m (1.2m) | 0.16p (0.14p) | 0.1p (-) |
| Whirlpool (1) | 588m (738m) | -8.6m (0.68m) | -1.66p (0.08p) | 2p (2.0p) |
| Wärtsilä-Yara (1) | - (-) | 13.3m (7.4m) | 17.2p (9.4p) | 5.8p (3.7p) |

Independent Hearts

ESSEX
Meet other charming and interesting unattached professionals at our dinner parties
MINSTERS DINING CLUB
Telephone: 01702 712 623

Personal

THE ANSWER IS Luton North.

الآن من الأصل

| DATA BANK | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| FT-SE 100 | 3855.9 -28.5 |
| FT-SE 250 | 4385.4 -28.6 |
| FT-SE 350 | 1930.9 -13.9 |
| SEAO VOLUME | 703m shares, |
| | 31,669 bargains |
| Gilt Index | 92.63 -0.27 |
| SHARE SPOTLIGHT | |
| share price, pence | |
| BRITISH VITA | 270 |
| | 260 |
| | 250 |
| | 240 |
| | 230 |
| | 220 |
| | 210 |
| | 200 |
| | 190 |
| | 180 |
| SUNDAY JFMAMJJAS | 170 |

Footsie suffers jitters in the wake of Iraqi flare-up

It was a difficult session for shares with the Iraqi flare-up and worries about US interest rates producing, with a little help from the Deutsche Morgan Grenfell funds fiasco, an acute bout of jitters.

At one time the FT-SE 100 index was nursing a 48.5 points fall and seemed destined to go even lower. But once New York got over initial hesitancy the stock market became more positive with the slide reduced to 28.5 (to 3,855.9) by the close.

The Iraqi confrontation put the spotlight on industries largely airlines and hotels which were savaged during the Gulf war when many travellers decided to stay at home.

British Airways, with the added worry of mounting pressure on its proposed American Airlines link, crashed 12.5p to 512p. On the hotel front, Granada fell 16.5p to 849.5p, Bass 7.5p to 813.5p and Ladbrokes 1p to 207.5p.

Oils lost some of their exuberance although crude prices continued to move ahead. Besides the increase in Middle Eastern tension, the United Nations' decision to postpone the food-for-oil deal, which would have allowed Iraq limited exporting opportunities, was again a influence in forcing the oil market higher.

Interest rate concerns were heightened by today's scheduled Ken and Eddie meeting. Despite the Chancellor's desire for lower rates it is thought he will for the time being bow to the more bearish stance of the Bank of England.

The near term direction of US rates could prove the decisive factor. The market is divided whether President Clinton will chance an increase ahead of the presidential election. If he does sit tight the Chancellor's room for manoeuvre is increased.

The latest fund manager

outcry prompted thoughts about a much tougher supervisory regime. If stories floating around about the composition of the suspended funds are true then portfolios had little relation to the apparent management guidelines.

British Biotech, rumoured to be one of the main investments fell 3p to 218p (after 192.5p) and Stamford Rock another alleged Morgan stock gave up 12.5p to 472.5p.

On the surface it looked as though the market enjoyed a busy session. However, Government sales of National Power, PowerGen and Southwark Electric helped swell volume. Through Goldman Sachs

28.5 million NP shares and 860,000 Southern went through and UBS handled the disposal of 17.1 million PG. The action dimmed the two generators, NP by 8.5p to 393p and PG by 8.5p to 455p but Southern managed a 2.5p gain to 665p.

Williams Holdings, one of the few conglomerates riding high, was little changed at 357.5p as Albert E Sharp made bullish noises ahead of next week's interim results. Suggesting profits of £112m, the stockbroker observed the shares "now look poised to break out from the sector straight jacket and achieve genuine growth status".

Smith & Nephew, the healthcare group, gained 3p to 198p on suspected buying by Morgan Stanley and Tate & Lyle edged ahead 2.5p to 452.5p although more profit downgradings were signalled.

Iceland's poor display unsettled other food retailers and Farmborough produced modest gains for the aero-space contingent.

Avan Rubber, the tyres group, enjoyed a speculative run, up 22.5p at 710p, a 12 month high. Croda International added 25.5p to 338p after better-than-expected profits.

The Croda displayed attention to British Vita up 9.5p to 204.5p.

With signs of a chemical upturn hopes are growing Monday's half-year figures will be accompanied by an encouraging trading statement. SBC Warburg has moved the shares "now look poised to break out from the sector straight jacket and achieve genuine growth status".

Telsec's latest profit warning sent the shares receding 18p to 222.5p. They were 1,045p in November. Memory Corporation lost a further 13.5p to 24p.

Quality Software, the computer group, edged forward 2.5p to 257.5p. Its recent strength appears to be due to buying by the Bulldog Fund, an investment vehicle related to stockbroker Seligmann Harris. It has acquired nearly 4 per cent.

Millwall, the second-division football club, had to contend with more selling by director Jose Berarda. He has unloaded a further 5.5 million shares. His holding is 4.5 per cent against 12.5 per cent earlier this year. The shares firms to 3.5p.

TAKING STOCK

BCE, the computer games group, fell 1p to 13.75p, lowest for more than a year. The fall has occurred despite favourable presentations about AutoNomy, developing an Internet search system, where BCE has 8.3 per cent. At the half-way mark the computer group had lost £1.2m and there are worries publishers may have delayed commitments in new games. There is also talk a sell note is being prepared by a stockbroker. The shares were 25p in November.

Ladbrokes has emerged as a surprise 4.45 per cent shareholder in Wakebourne, the struggling computer group. It seems the betting and hotel group could have acquired its interest in December 1994, when a company with a debt to Ladbrokes went into receivership. Wakebourne held at 27.5p.

market report/shares

■ BCE, the computer games group, fell 1p to 13.75p, lowest for more than a year. The fall has occurred despite favourable presentations about AutoNomy, developing an Internet search system, where BCE has 8.3 per cent.

Telsec's latest profit warning sent the shares receding 18p to 222.5p. They were 1,045p in November. Memory Corporation lost a further 13.5p to 24p.

Quality Software, the computer group, edged forward 2.5p to 257.5p. Its recent strength appears to be due to buying by the Bulldog Fund, an investment vehicle related to stockbroker Seligmann Harris. It has acquired nearly 4 per cent.

Millwall, the second-division football club, had to contend with more selling by director Jose Berarda. He has unloaded a further 5.5 million shares. His holding is 4.5 per cent against 12.5 per cent earlier this year. The shares firms to 3.5p.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

Other details: Ex rights = Ex dividend; E = ex all United Securities Markets; S = suspended; P = partly paid; m = nil paid shares; A = stock.

Source: FT Information

The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Soap. Simply dial 0891 123 335, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0891 123 223 followed by one of the two-digit codes below:

FTSE 100 - Real-time 00 Sterling Rates 04 Privatisation issues 38
UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 05 Water Shares 39
UK Company News 02 Mail St Report 20 Electricity Shares 40
Foreign Exchange 03 Tokyo Market 21 High Street Banks 41

Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 123 333.

For assistance, call our helpline 071 973 4375 (0800am - 5.30pm).

Call cost 5p per minute (deep rate), and 4p at all other times. Call charges include VAT

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

| Stock | Volumes | Stock | Volumes | Stock | Volumes |
|----------------|---------|-------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| National Power | 62,000 | Btch (Btch) | 52,000 | Btch (Btch) | 52,000 |
| Hanson | 29,000 | WPP | 22,000 | Btch Inds | 64,000 |
| PowerGen | 20,000 | Lydia TSB | 7,000 | Guinness | 56,000 |
| Btch | 15,000 | BP | 7,000 | Teleco | 56,000 |
| Rail Roya | 12,000 | BT | 6,000 | Barclays | 56,000 |
| | | | | Bank of Scotland | 57,000 |
| | | | | Gen Accident | 57,000 |

FT-SE 100 Index hour by hour

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Open 3872 down 73 | 11.00 3858.9 down 255 | 14.00 3841.8 down 425 |
| 10.00 3865.8 down 158 | 12.00 3855.8 down 265 | 15.00 3838.7 down 457 |
| 10.00 3855.8 down 233 | 13.00 3826.5 down 223 | 16.00 3805.9 down 278 |

Close 3805.9 down 265

Index 3841.8 down 425

net names
Under 10%
of these companies have
protected their names for
Internet use

You wouldn't do business without registering your business name. NetNames will register your company and trade names for Internet use around the world. Don't let others get there first. Register now.

International Internet Name Registry
FREEPHONE NETNAMES 0800 269049

<http://www.netnames.co.uk>

news

A taste of England 1: In the fields of Kent the grapes mature to produce one of our finest vintages for years

JAMES CUSICK

A September sun, faint breeze, good food eaten outdoors overlooking a hillside of vineyards. Not Bordeaux but Kent – no Gallic *je ne sais quoi* here. Without question this has been a superb year for English wine and only the French are complaining.

At the beginning of next month the chaos, excitement and buzz of the English wine harvest will descend on the country's eight so commercial vineyards. A hot summer last year and a frost-free spring followed by a summer of good sun this year have left the vines with a bumper crop of quality grapes.

Despite the old prejudice that wine from England is as appropriate as an outdoor swimming pool in Stornaway, the arguable climatic shift in recent years towards milder springs and hotter summers has led to a wine industry no longer considered a joke among international producers. Consistent quality is now achievable.

With the country now contributing more than 2 million bottles of wine to the European Union's production total, the EU has been trying to impose its quality control on English producers. France takes its own classification control very seriously but the English system has generally been ignored by producers who have hoped the bureaucracy would fade away and let them get on with improving the product. However, the harvest this year is likely to

increase England's small share of the EU market and French producers are known by the British growers to be furious. At Lamberhurst Vineyards set in 60 acres of Kent countryside in the Weald near Tunbridge Wells wine-maker Simon Day is anticipating the coming harvest with relish. Trained at the Three Choirs Vineyards in Gloucestershire and Brown Brothers in Australia he is one of the few professionals who believe English wine has already rid itself of its "plonk" image.

Six varieties of grapes are grown at Lamberhurst: Seyval blanc, Schönburger, Reichsteiner, Bacchus, Müller Thurgau and Kerner. And the partly explains why the French are upset. "Seyval blanc, for example, is a hybrid grape," Mr Day said. "It is high yielding and disease resistant. The French have tried to grow it and they say it produces only poor quality wine, but in the English climate it thrives and produces good wine."

Although EU regulations allow Lamberhurst to use the Seyval blanc grape, the French say the crop will simply add to Europe's wine lake by producing more inferior wine. The fact that Lamberhurst has won two international wine awards indicates protectionist tendencies from the French rather than genuine concern about over-production.

Nevertheless, when the French wine industry is worried, the European Commission takes notice. A delegation of inspectors is expected to conduct a new

survey of the English wine growers before this year's harvest is in. If the EU imposed a growing ban on certain varieties of weather-resistant grapes, Britain's industry could be killed off. However, it is more likely that the French – as they did with the United States, Australia, New Zealand and now South Africa – will have to learn to live with new competition.

Lamberhurst has been in production since 1972. In the first year it crushed just over 100 tons of grapes. This year's total is up to 600 tons and the harvest is expected to raise production even higher. Last year, Paul Cooper and Derek McMillan – with backgrounds in industry and public relations – became the new owners of Lamberhurst. They have aggressively marketed the Kentish vineyards and now hold large contracts with Sainsbury and Tesco, and are negotiating with Odeblins.

Mr Day said: "At the moment we have just enough to last us but we are running out of wine because the demand is so good." Like a proud father speaking of a gifted child he recalled the recent visit of a French wine-maker to Kent. "We entertained them at Lamberhurst. I don't think they expected what they drank – it surprised them."

But wine making is "as much science as art", he added, and "there is always room for improvement". The French are probably hoping for not too much improvement.

Wine-maker's delight: Simon Day inspecting the grapes at Lamberhurst, where a bumper harvest is expected

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid



A taste of England 2: In a froth of PR, alcoholic gel is launched

GLENDA COOPER



Thickhead: Offending label on the latest alcopop

Carlsberg-Tetley, gave in to pressure yesterday from the drinks industry watchdog to change the packaging of its latest "alcopop", Thickhead, amid fears that it could encourage underage drinking.

The drink – described as the first "alcoholic carbonated gel drink" – made by Carlsberg-Tetley in Burton-on-Trent, is the latest alcoholic soft drink to come under fire amid fears they are appealing to under-18s. The Portman Group, set up by the drinks industry, told Carlsberg-Tetley that the word

alcohol should be displayed more prominently and that the picture on the label of a youth pulling a face directly contravenes its code of practice by portraying someone who could be under 18.

Yesterday, Carlsberg-Tetley agreed to the group's demand in future production of the drink.

The Labour Party demanded an independent inquiry into the drink, while Alcohol Concern described it as "ridiculous" to expect that a drink resembling liquidised jelly would not appeal to children.

Carlsberg-Tetley denied that Thickhead, a fluorescent orange

drink, would encourage under-18s to drink and claimed that the picture on the label of a youth pulling a face directly contravenes its code of practice by portraying someone who could be under 18.

Jean Cousins, director of the Portman Group said: "The good news is the company is still fully supportive of the Portman Group and will be changing the labelling accordingly. The bad news is we don't know how long it is going to take before the label is changed ... We wish they had delayed the launch and changed the labels."

Labour's consumer affairs spokesman, Nigel Griffiths, said:

However, Carlsberg-Tetley, who also make Lemonhead and Orangehead (alcoholic lemonade and orangeade), said the gooey treat which is "tangy in flavour, fluorescent orange in colour ... [and] the consistency of liquid hair gel" was the latest attempt to woo the "pick and mix" generation who no longer stick to one type of drink.

Around £250m is expected to be spent on alcopops this year. Since the launch of the first alcoholic lemonade, the British public has been treated to alcoholic colas and orangeade and there are rumours of alco-

holic "slush puppies" (frozen ice drinks) on the way.

Stephen Cox, campaigns manager for the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) said: "As the old volume-related products have gone down, the drinks industry has turned to premium products which people will buy for three or four years. It launches lots and lots of brands in the hope that one of them does well."

"So it is a great example. It was desperately popular for two years, but then that crowd moved on and no-one would be seen drinking Mexican lager."

Suzanne Moore, page 13

Youth market

How the media labels young people

Cyber Gen: The weird world of teenagers

Mind Blow: Timothy Leary's must

Eco-Pagan: Glastonbury's

A Gender: Tank girls meet the men – androgynous and proud

Giant Bling: Bush and Bear

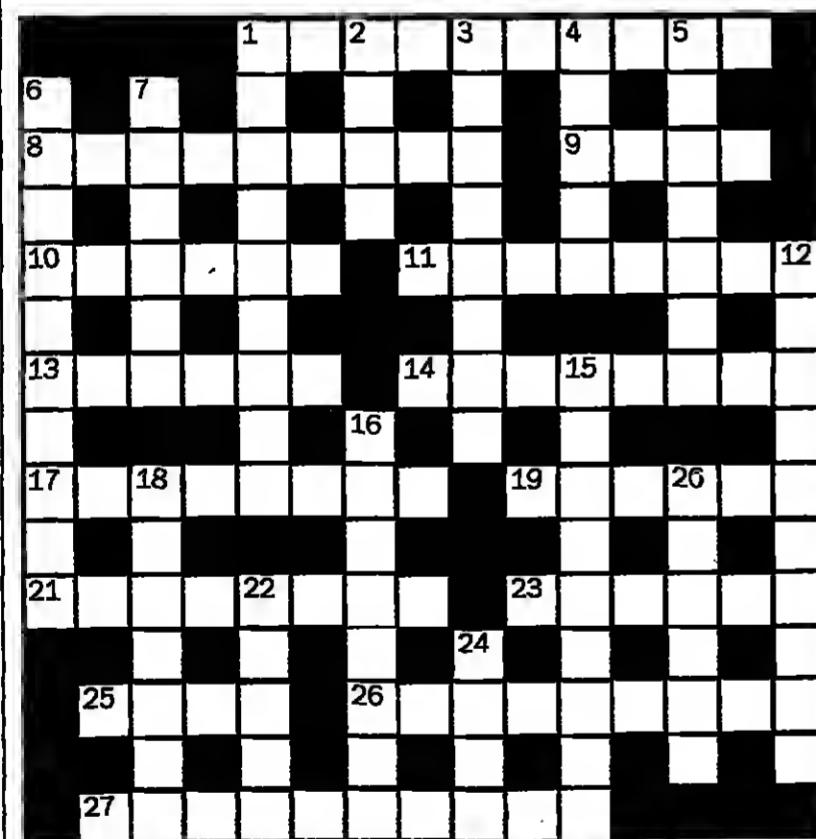
Street Sport: Sports with style

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3083. Wednesday 4 September

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution



ACROSS

- 1 General artist gets new appointment (10)
- 8 Football administrators organize relief with dance (9)
- 9 Birds of prey invading wild-fowl sanctuary (4)
- 10 Play in general manner (6)
- 11 Holding fan? (8)
- 13 Comics, perhaps, for such rays? (6)
- 14 It takes a turn for the better (8)
- 17 Charm of Riviera resort next to headland (8)
- 19 Fifty-cent cut is a big lump! (6)
- 21 Sixteen, roughly – temperature for living (8)
- 23 Suggestions in Ibsen's work? (6)

DOWN

- 25 Circular letter to man in Turkey – follow instructions (4)
- 26 End at home, possibly, with something to replace horse? (9)
- 27 In favour of trial, worker is one taking part in demo (10)
- 1 Feeling of surprise (9)
- 2 Othello's retirement chamber (4)
- 3 Infant taking in Swiss girl in Dostoevsky's work (3,5)
- 4 Theatre-in-the-round (5)
- 5 Most important angle in fortification (7)
- 6 Away on leave, one may not drink here (3-7)
- 7 Places for putting vegetables (6)
- 12 Wrong entries in very French overtures (10)
- 15 He has the courage for R1 (9)
- 16 Sea-waves ruin man's suit (8)
- 18 One is agile on head of crag (7)
- 20 Wound left – row coming up! (6)
- 22 Secret meeting in country station (5)
- 24 Hotly-tipped mount that runs at times (4)

£36
Rain or shine

Just £36 gives you the reassurance of RAC Rescue. Whenever you travel. Even if you're a passenger in someone else's car. We fix 82% of cars on the spot. If we can't get you going, we'll tow you to a nearby garage, free of charge. Callouts and our labour are free too – you only pay for parts.

You're also covered for theft or vandalism. And you can tailor your cover to meet your needs – with Joint or Family cover, or our 'Recovery' service. A year's worry-free driving from just £36. Come rain or shine. Call us today to find out more.

0800 029 029

join us

RAC

Interact on the Internet: <http://www.rac.co.uk>

Please quote code SS2328/3/XX when you phone

FREE RAC UK ROAD ATLAS WHEN YOU JOIN US



Yes – I want to join the RAC. Please tell me how I can join from just £36*.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

Address

Telephone

Send to: RAC Rescue, FREEPOST, Bristol BS38 7AU. (No stamp needed.) *Rescue costs £36 if you pay by Continuous Credit Card Authority or Direct Debit. Cash enrolment price is £41 and discount applies to your first year membership only. All prices include an enrolment fee. Phone lines open Monday-Friday 8am-6pm, Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 10am-4pm. ST0007/SS2328/3/XX

THE INDEPENDENT

Summer of sport

Wednesday 4 September 1996

England players to boycott training

Rugby Union

DAVID LLEWELLYN

England players yesterday supported a call to put club before country and will boycott today's training session at Bisham Abbey, leaving Jack Rowell, the England coach, right, with unused scrum machines and rugby balls lying idle on the pitch.

The English Professional Rugby Union Clubs finally flexed their not inconsiderable muscle in the struggle for supremacy with the Rugby Football Union and the players

quickly fell into line behind their employers.

"We are being fully supported by the players, we have stuck our necks out for them, now they must stick theirs out for us," Donald Kerr, the chairman of Epruc, said. "We know that the Rugby Football Union are threatening the players with losing their England places if they fail to attend. We will do everything to protect the players' interests. They have been very much on our side throughout the battle."

"I expect the top players to carry on supporting us. We are now entering the final chapter.

By sticking together we will get the whole thing sorted out in six to eight weeks flat. If not it will go fester on. We will put the RFU under maximum pressure. We have spent the last few days explaining to the players exactly why the whole thing is in such a mess.

"It is not an issue about turning up to the training session, but whether the players support the clubs, who are now their employers. The players are the key to this dispute. They are being paid reasonable salaries and we are asking them to support us in this dispute."

"I've been very impressed at

the way they have conducted themselves throughout this whole sorry saga."

The RFU's response to the boycott came from the RFU technical director Don Rutherford. "It would be sad, with international rugby having moved to a higher level as seen in the Southern Hemisphere, if England's preparations were impinged upon at this stage," he said. And in a statement from Twickenham the RFU reminded the clubs that the training sessions had been discussed on 12 June of this year, confirmed in a memo on 15 July and the first of the planned and agreed

sessions had taken place on 24 July.

England were planning a 43-man squad session, but Leicester's contingent of four forwards, including the Five Nations-winning players Graham Rowntree and Martin Johnson, were among the first to declare that they would not be there. The 43 players will instead attend an Epruc meeting.

"We didn't say to them you will not go. We told them the position as we saw it and left it up to them. They decided not to go," the Leicester chief executive Peter Wheeler said.

The British Lions tour man-

ager Fran Cotton expressed his sympathy for the players caught up in the dispute and appealed for the game's warring factions to get together to resolve their differences.

The former England forward said: "I really do feel sorry for the players. They are becoming pig in the middle and all they want to do is play for their clubs and their country."

Epruc also stated that it has no intention of meeting the RFU for further talks which have dragged on for the last nine months with the clubs getting nowhere as Twickenham has stalled and extended every

deadline to date in the hope of nullifying the threat of a breakaway. But the clubs have finally snapped and although Kerr insisted that the clubs would honour their domestic fixture list, even that must be in doubt.

"I have been asked to meet the president of the Rugby Union, John Richardson, but there will be no more talks," Kerr said. "The old order is just out working and the new order has come in."

It would not be unreasonable to assume that RFU might just decide to make the divorce absolute and expel the clubs. But they would hardly endear them-

selves to rugby supporters already bemused by the game's apparent disintegration.

The only thing left for the RFU now would be to grant the clubs what they want, fiscal independence, autonomy to run their own competitions, but next season that is precisely what Epruc see themselves doing anyway.

Ultimately the thing which lies at the root of the this affair is money. The clubs say they need £1m, the RFU has offered £300,000. That sort of money does not talk, so the clubs walk.

Geoghegan operation, page 2

Illingworth cleared of disrepute charge

Cricket

Raymond Illingworth left Lord's a happy man last night after winning his appeal against a disrepute charge.

After a five-hour hearing with the Cricket Council appeals panel, Illingworth said: "I am delighted with the result. It is a relief that now everything has ended. It has been a long, hard six months, but I feel vindicated and delighted that my name has been cleared."

Illingworth was fined £2,000 by the Test and County Cricket Board in June over newspaper articles from his book, principally about the England fast bowler Devon Malcolm, with whom Illingworth had a very public falling-out on last winter's tour to South Africa.

Illingworth, who retired as chairman of selectors following England's final one-day match against Pakistan at Trent Bridge on Sunday, said: "I didn't want to leave the game with a disrepute charge hanging over me. As far as I'm concerned, my name has been cleared."

Report, page 5



Going through: Michael Chang powers his way into the quarter-finals of the US Open after a straight sets victory over Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek

Photograph: Reuter

Agassi promises explosive match

Tennis

DERRICK WHYTE

Andre Agassi and Thomas Muster are ready to bring the United States Open alive with a quarter-final match between two of the game's hardest hitters.

"It's going to be big tennis," the sixth-seeded Agassi said of his meeting with the third-seeded Austrian. "Big tennis is when you get two guys trying to establish their will out there on the court."

"We both are going to be beating the ball pretty good from the baseline. You'll hear explosions off the racket four, five, six times a point. That's big tennis."

Neither player needed to raise the decibel level of his game on Monday. Muster prevailed over the 13th-seeded Swede, Thomas Enqvist, 7-6, 6-2, 4-6, 6-1, despite being weakened by the effects of a stomach upset. There were no such concerns for Agassi after his 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 win over his American compatriot David Wheaton.

Regardless of Muster's health, Agassi is expecting the gritty left-hander to give his usual all-out effort. "I think he punches the clock every time he steps on the court," Agassi said of the 1995 French Open champion. "Every time he gets out

there, he busts his ass to win. I don't expect him to do anything less."

The match has added spice because there is no love lost between the two players who have split their eight previous encounters.

Muster was one of the most vocal critics of the Open's decision to elevate Agassi two places in the seedings from his ATP ranking and drop the Australian one spot.

Earlier in the year, Agassi questioned Muster's legitimacy as the world No 1 since he had won only on clay, but the American said he did not see the upcoming confrontation between the two former Grand Slam champions in personal terms.

"I think if anyone makes this

more than a tennis match, it's their own issue," said Agassi, winner of the 1994 Open as well as the 1995 Australian Open and 1992 Wimbledon.

"Come on, we're in the quarter-finals of the US Open. We both have won big events before. We both want to do it again. That's what's both going out there and trying to do. To make it anything more than that is a waste of time."

Goran Ivanisevic also made it through to the last eight yesterday. The left-handed Croatian served out 20 aces in his 6-3, 6-3, 7-6 victory over the unseeded Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine.

In another fourth-round match, Spain's Alex Corretja defeated Guy Forget of France 6-4, 6-3, 7-6. The victory earned the unseeded Corretja a match with either the defending champion, Pete Sampras, or the hard-serving Australian Mark Philippoussis. Michael Chang, the No 2 seed, took his place in the with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 win over Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek.

The 24-year-old Chang's next hurdle is 28-year-old Javier Sanchez of Spain, ranked 67 and with a 1996 record of 23-27. He has not played Sanchez in four years, but won all three of their early encounters.

Chang, who improved his match record to 20-2 since reaching the semi-finals, is on course to reach the quarter-finals without having to face a seeded opponent.

The seemingly indefatigable 1989 French Open champion said too many tough tests can wear you out. "I think Pete Sampras is a good example of that at the French Open this year. He had so many tough five-set matches going into 2000 since he was very tired," Chang said of the world No 1, who had three five-setters before losing to Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the eventual champion from Russia.

Sanchez, who surprised 20th-seeded Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch 6-4, 7-6, 7-6, had lost in the first round of eight of his previous nine Grand Slams.

As if it were not surprising enough to find Sanchez in the second week at a major, there is not a bookmaker on the planet who would have predicted he would last longer than his famous sister, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. But that was what happened.

The third-seeded Sanchez Vicario, who won here in 1994, got a look at the future of women's tennis as she fell to 16th-seeded Martina Hingis of Switzerland 6-1, 3-6, 6-4.

In the quarter-finals, the 15-year-old Hingis will face the seventh-seeded Czech, Jana Novotna, who thrashed the 17th seed, Karina Habsovova of Slovakia, 6-2, 6-0 in just 50 minutes.

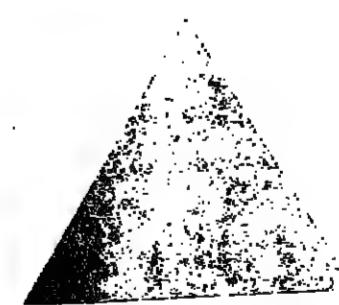
Steffi Graf, the top seed and defending champion, was not about to give way to the youth movement, however. The German world No 1 ended the exciting run of 15-year-old Russian newcomer Anna Kournikova 6-2, 6-1 to reach the quarter-finals for the 12th consecutive year.

"It's important to have these new faces come up," the four-time champion said of Hingis and Kournikova. "It's good to know the future of women's tennis is going to show up."

Graf continues her quest for a 21st Grand Slam singles title with a quarter-final against Austrian Judith Wiesner, a 6-3, 6-0 winner over Italy's Rita Grande.



Hump bridge.



Leave the bridge well alone.



Bass BEST SELLING PREMIUM CASK ALE SINCE 1777

INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL
See page 10 to play today

Hartford takes charge at City

Football

Asa Hartford, the reluctant caretaker at Maine Road, has accepted his chairman Francis Lee's offer to become manager of Manchester Forest on 24 August.

Hartford, who is very popular with the players, had claimed that he was only interested in being assistant manager at Maine Road and would not apply to take over from Alan Ball, but after a fresh approach from Lee - who made a reported offer to double Hartford's wages - he had a change of heart before City's game against Charlton last night.

Gracine Souness, the Southampton manager, and Middlesbrough's Bryan Robson have been charged with bringing the game into disrepute after arguing with Michael Riley, a new Premiership referee.

They are not the only ones in trouble. The Coventry pair Ron Atkinson and Gordon Strachan have also been charged, while Sunderland have been charged after allegations that they played a suspended player, Alex Rae, in a reserve game.

Riley was verbally abused by Souness both at half-time and at

the end of Leicester's 2-1 win at Filbert Street on 21 August, triggered by the dismissal of Barry Venison. Robson lost his temper when the referee booked nine players and sent off Nigel Pearson in the 1-1 draw at Nottingham Forest on 24 August.

Atkinson and Strachan have been charged following Coventry's reserve match against West Bromwich last week, in which Strachan refused to leave after being sent off, halting the game for 15 minutes. Atkinson was then weighed in with a verbal attack on the official.

Another referee, Paul Danson, has also reported the pair following problems at Stamford Bridge on 24 August, when Coventry lost 2-0. There were angry scenes over Chelsea's first goal after Dan Petrescu was alleged to have handled.

George Weah may be heading to Highbury in time for Christmas. The Milan striker has said he is keen to link up with Arsène Wenger, the Gunners' new manager, after the Champions League group games.

Weah, who has two years left on his contract in Italy, will be released by Milan in December, if Arsenal come up with £10m.

Nielsen prepares for unfamiliar surroundings

Allan Nielsen, Tottenham's new £1.65m signing from Denmark, makes his Premiership debut against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park tonight - without most of the players he thought he was joining.

Teddy Sheringham, Chris Armstrong, Gary Mabbutt and Dean Austin are all on a long injury list which has again disrupted Gerry Francis's start to the season.

Goalkeeper Ian Walker, who damaged his back training with England at the weekend, and Darren Anderton, still inhibited by abdominal stress from the major surgery which forced him to miss seven months of last season, are both highly doubtful.

Francis is likely to play winger Ruel Fox as a central striker to save 18-year-old Rory Allen a daunting Premiership debut, but said: "It is fair to assume Rory will be involved in some way. He is all I have left as cover for the strikers."

Nigerian striker Efan Ekoku takes over the onerous mantle

of Wimbledon's goalscoring responsibilities from Dean Holdsworth, who is currently out of favour with the Dons' manager, Joe Kinnear, and may be on his way out of Selhurst Park. Wimbledon have yet to score this season.

Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea manager, is refusing to be carried away by their unbeaten start to the season. The London side can cut Sheffield Wednesday's lead at the top to two points by winning at Arsenal tonight, but Gullit said: "Current positions in the league are irrelevant."

"Maybe after seven or eight games you will begin to see which teams will be up there at the end of the season, but three games is not a realistic time to measure a team's quality."

Stewart Houston, who is in temporary charge at Highbury, is not underestimating the visitors. "Chelsea have caught the imagination with their summer signings and they all seem to have settled in quickly. I watched them in their opening game at

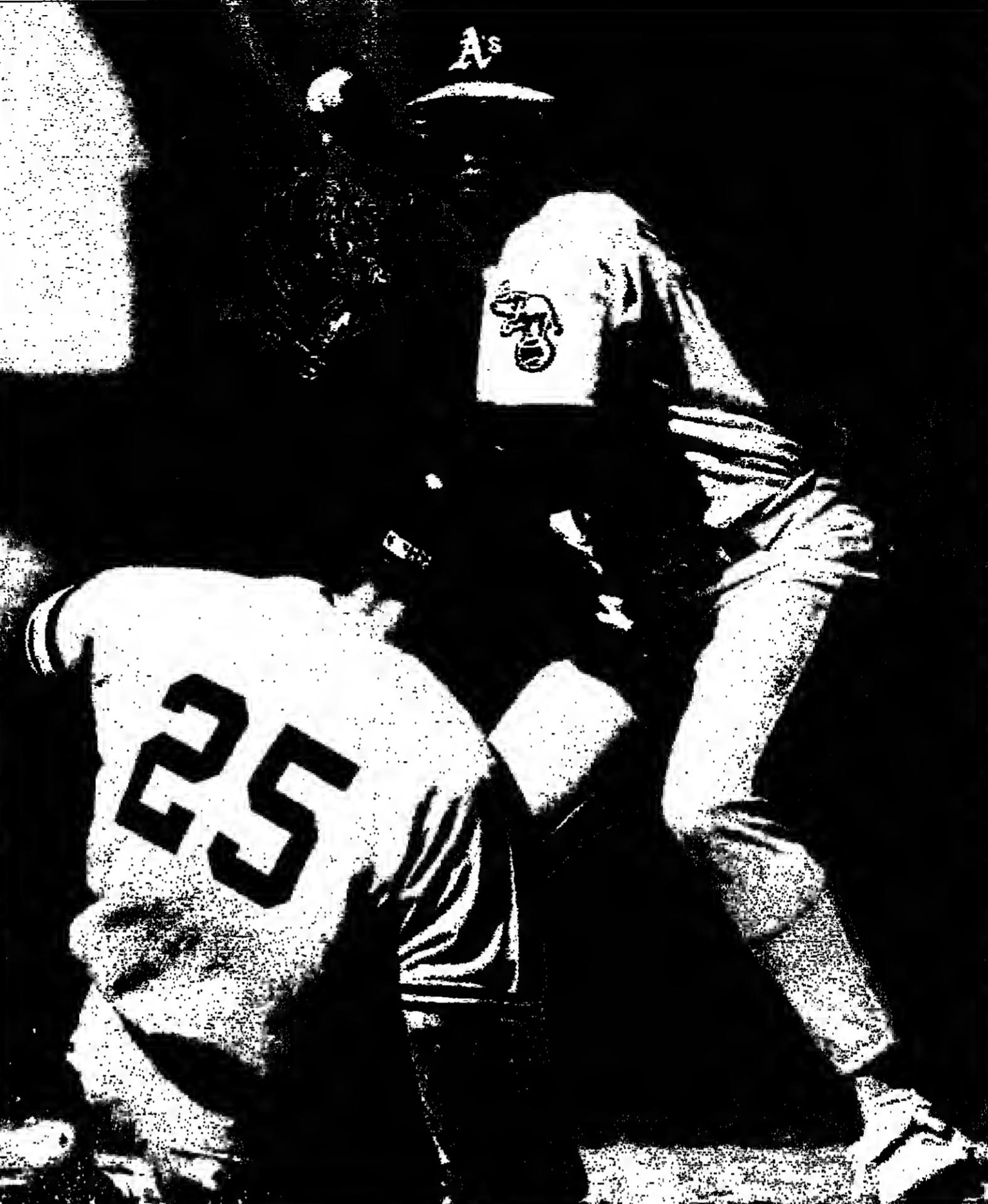
Southampton and Vialli, Lebouef and Di Matteo have given them a great strength through the middle," he said.

West Ham will give their Danish defender, Marc Rieper, a late fitness test before the trip to Middlesbrough. John Morten, Ian Bishop and Tony Cottee are still injured, but Harry Redknapp can call on his Romanian duo Florin Raducliu and Ilie Dumitrescu for the first time this season.

Middlesbrough will be without their captain, Nigel Pearson, but manager Bryan Robson said: "It is a very exciting fixture with so many overseas players involved. Harry has done a remarkable job at West Ham because when he came in they were regarded as relegation material, but all that has changed now."

Gracine Souness is to give debuts to new signings Claus Lundekvam and Robbie Slater as Southampton look for their first victory of the season against Nottingham Forest at The Dell.

Diamonds are a Yankees' best friend



Sands up: Joe Girardi, of the New York Yankees, is forced out by Oakland Athletics' Tony Bastista in the eighth inning of a Major League match in California on Monday night. But the Yankees still ran the Athletics ragged, winning 5-0

Photograph: AP

Davies loses her touch

Golf

Laura Davies, who birdied six of the final seven holes at the LPGA Rail Classic at Springfield, Illinois, and made a 25ft bunker shot on the last hole to join a three-way play-off, finally lost her touch.

America's Barb Whitehead missed her chance to win on Monday when her 40ft chip shot struck the pin on the first extra hole and bounced away. So it fell to her compatriot Michelle McGann, whose 12ft putt for birdie on the third hole of extra play gave her the victory.

"I knew this course would give up a lot of birdies," McGann, who has earned three of her five tour wins in play-offs, said. "I knew whoever made the most putts would win."

McGann, Davies and Whitehead completed the 54 holes at 14 under par, all level at 202. After the three made par on the first two play-off holes, they returned to the par-four 18th. "I knew I had to be aggressive," McGann, who hit a final-round 68, said. "I had to have a birdie at least. That was a pivotal hole." The win was McGann's third of the year and was worth \$86,250 (£56,600).

Davies, who hit 66, finished the regulation play in impressive fashion. The tour's leading money-winner, however, fell victim to poor driving in sudden-death play and bogeyed the final hole. "I just let things happen," she said. "The front nine was really disappointing. I thought I'd make some birdies on the back nine."

Davies took a break from the US tour and flew back to Britain to compete in the European Women's Open, which starts at Ware, Hertfordshire, tomorrow.

Scores, Digest, Page 9



A jubilant Michelle McGann, from Florida, lifts the trophy after winning a three-way play-off in the LPGA Rail Classic at Springfield, Illinois. Photograph: AP

Geoghegan seeks US help

Rugby Union

Simon Geoghegan, Bath's Irish wing, will travel to the United States at the weekend for surgery on both feet. "I am going to San Diego on Sunday and will have operations on both toe joints by an orthopaedic surgeon who specialises in that particular area," he said.

"I just hope it works out and that I will be able to regain full fitness. It has been frustrating and extremely disappointing."

Geoghegan, who scored a try in Bath's opening match against Orrell, will miss the match at Leicester on Saturday. He has had recurring trouble with the joints and an operation in London during the summer failed to solve the problem.

Vaiga Tuigamala has been cleared to make his debut for Wasps. The Department for Education and Employment advised the Rugby Football Union yesterday that they were prepared to allow Tuigamala to play for Wasps.

A spokesman for the RFU said: "We are pleased to support

the Department of Education and Employment on this exceptional basis. Tuigamala has demonstrated that he has been a truly outstanding rugby union player and is at international standard in rugby league."

Tuigamala

will be up against some familiar faces as two of his Wigan team-mates, Henry Paul and Jason Robinson, are due to make their debuts for Bath in the match.

Wasps

had threatened legal action after their initial application for a work permit was turned down on the grounds that Tuigamala did not meet the criterion of having played international rugby in the last 18 months. His last match for the All Blacks, before his move to Wigan, was in 1993.

However,

the Department

for Education and Employment

have relented and granted the rugby league player and former All Black winger a work permit.

A spokesman for the RFU said:

"We are pleased to support

I'm looking forward to a new challenge at Bedford and I hope I can run them in a lot of tries," Offiah said.

Bedford's Geoff Cooke, the former England manager, and his new player-coach, Paul Turner, both admitted they were not as far forward in their preparation as they would have liked.

"We are in discussion with some second row forwards because we have identified a problem in our line-out," Turner said. "We hope to make an announcement about a new signing later this week."

Sale have parted company with Brian Wilkinson, their chief executive and director of rugby. They have appointed Richard Trickey, the club president, as their new rugby director. He will be assisted by Steve Smith, the former England captain.

A new chief executive will be appointed in a few days. The club would not comment on the reasons behind Wilkinson's departure.

WRU's night of reconciliation

ROBERT COLE

The Welsh Rugby Union will sit down with its 12 senior clubs tonight in a last-ditch effort to stop the national game being ripped apart.

The First Division clubs are already recommending to their members that they back their bid to go it alone and look after their own affairs - principally the money-spinning aspects of competition sponsorship and television rights.

The chairman of First Division Rugby Limited, Peter Thomas, said: "We have a great rugby product to put forward for players and fans alike. So far the Union has stymied that - the WRU has had a chance and failed. We feel that we may need

to look after our own affairs. Each club has budgeted for its own affairs this season but the WRU can't meet the financial fulfilment we require to make the books balance."

"We want to work with the WRU, but we are now a professional body. We put forward plans for an Anglo-Welsh competition and a European tournament on a home and away basis. We want to work with the WRU and not against them, but commercial common sense must prevail."

"You can't run a business while bailing out a begging bowl. We meet with the WRU and we need to have clear dialogue with them."

After the clubs, who insist they are not scaremongering, had made their proposals pub-

lish clubs and make some meaningful competitions that are attractive to players and fans. The ball is in the Union's court."

Thousands of cheering New Zealanders lined the streets of Auckland yesterday to welcome home the All Blacks. Supporters of all ages gathered to pay tribute to the first All Black team to beat the Springboks in a series of matches. The All Blacks, dubbed "The Incomparables" after their 2-1 series win, were carried by a cavalcade of floats and cars through a sea of black and white banners. In all, New Zealand won three tests in the Republic, the third being part of the Tri-Nations series involving Australia. Under their new coach, John Hart, they won nine of the 10 tests they played this season.

Concrete and tarmac and a charm of its own

BEING THERE

The US Open, about as far as you can get from Wimbledon, is a show well worth the queuing, says David Usborne

There are various ways of getting into the US Open at New York's Flushing Meadow. The best is to have friends in high corporate places with space in one of their boxes in the lower terraces of the stadium, the giant cauldron that is this tournament's less-than-intimate Centre Court. You can write off for tickets by post months in advance and cross your fingers that you might get a couple. Or you can punish yourself with the spur-of-the-moment approach and queue outside the grounds on one of the mornings of play.

This last strategy is risky but not without hope, since the organisers keep 1,000 tickets back for sale on the morning of each day at the ticket booths. But you do have to begin queuing early. On a day like this one, when the skies are a crystal blue and Pete Sampras is due in the stadium, that means turning up at 6am, five and a half hours before the start of play. Rolling up on a No 7 subway train from Manhattan - plastered for the two weeks of the Open with a cutesy Nike campaign featuring funny tennis remarks by John McEnroe - at a little after 10 o'clock will not do.

Had I known, of course, I would have surrendered to the first scalper who approached me with the offer of a \$25 stadium ticket for \$75. But why subsidise their sleazy dealings, I reason, happily convinced that the line snaking before me will soon be moving? I start to worry when after the first hour of standing there, the skin on my forehead blistering in the sun, my new-found queuing acquaintance, Jennifer from Northern Ireland via Florida, cracks and dispatches her husband to the scalpers: "Let's go watch some tennis," he quips annoyingly on his return, holking Jennifer from the line.

Unbelievably, it is at the very instant that I reach the ticket booths, two hours after I started, that the announcement is made: "There are no more tickets available for today. Please try again tomorrow. Thank you for visiting the US Open at Flushing Meadow." Slowly the disappointed throngs begin to thin, encouraged by the security guy with the bull-horn. He turns out to be a real actor: "There are NO MORE TICKETS. Nothing, zilch, nada, squat." I and a few hardy optimists refuse to budge. "You folks," says our bull-horn friend, "are the ones in Las Vegas who will never leave the table." Yip.

I am adopted by Peg, Paula and Fay, three fifty-something golden girls from Manhattan, who on this day seem to have mislaid the corporate and famous-people invites they claim they usually have. They flirt with me, because I am before them and if four tickets should, by some miracle, suddenly come up, they want us to be a cosy group. They flirt even more fiercely with the boy who is still sitting by his computer at the ticket window in front of us. Finally, at 1.09pm, he beckons us. YES - someone has cancelled and there are four tickets for grounds admis-



Enthusiasm inside and outside the gates at Flushing Meadow: securing a ticket is a matter of patience, guile or money

Photographs: Justin Sutcliffe

sion only, for \$20 each. We snatch them.

Flushing Meadow. After a less than one-second pause at the security table and a warm goodbye to the golden girls, I pass through the gates and stop to contemplate my achievement as well as the surroundings. I had known not to expect a New York equivalent of Wimbledon, with champagne, Virginia creeper and strawberries, but the brutality of where I find myself is still a shock. For years, I had the notion that Flushing Meadow was some posh resort place in Florida or perhaps South Carolina. Instead, it is an entirely charmless complex of concrete and tarmac, its bleakness barely relieved by the blue and white concessions selling hats and ice-creams.

I had known not to expect a New York equivalent of Wimbledon, with champagne, Virginia creeper and strawberries, but the brutality of where I find myself is still a shock. For years, I had the notion that Flushing Meadow was some posh resort place in Florida or perhaps South Carolina. Instead, it is an entirely charmless complex of concrete and tarmac, its bleakness barely relieved by the blue and white concessions selling hats and ice-creams.

Just when you want to catch up with the score, commercials like 'Tampax is Trust' flash across the board

It is hemmed in on all sides by expressways and noisy railway lines. At least the aircraft noise is kept down by an agreement between the USTA and New York, which demands that aircraft from nearby Kennedy and La Guardia airports are diverted from the air above for the duration of the tournament. (For many violations of this and the city is fined.)

I head for the grandstand, the No 2 court to which I am entitled entry with my general ticket. (The stadium is, theoretically, out of bounds.) Tucked on to the side of the stadium the grandstand shares the same

bowl, a foul-aired

intestine of freeze-block corridors, jammed with concession stalls. On the occasional television monitor that shows the progress of whatever match you are missing, a special message flashes. It is about the only mirthful

thing I see all day: "Due to the Weather Conditions We advise you to Seek Shade and Drink Plenty of Fluids." Have the organisers been cut into the grandstand or the stadium, I wonder? Shade comes courtesy of clouds only.

On the grandstand benches, I at last get my first glimpse of tennis: Helena Sukova versus Conchita Martinez. I am certain that the super-tall Sukova, whose movements are those of a nervous racehorse until the moment she pauses to meet the ball when she is all slow-motion

grace, is going to be the winner here. So, of course, in three straight sets, she loses. I leave disappointed, wondering what it is like inside the stadium next door and irritated by the commercials that keep flashing across the scoreboards between games, just when you want to catch up with where the match stands. "Tampax is Trust" hardly helps.

It is time for the walk-in-as-if-you-own-the-place stratagem. Looking purposeful,

I bolt into a stadium entranceway and head to the top of the terraces. Easy as pie. Soon I am the defender of surely the best spot at the whole Open - the uppermost row of the stadium's east side that offers an unobstructed if somewhat distant view of the stadium court itself (binoculars definitely recommended) as well as a remarkable bird's-eye panorama of the grandstand court behind and below. This means I can watch two matches simultaneously. Straight beneath me - I am literally suspended above the net - Gabriela Sabatini is bravely trying to repel the deep and powerful shots of Asa Carlson, while on

the stadium court, the No 1 seed, Sampras, is sinking into serious trouble against the youngster, Jim Novak.

So, I admit, I start to have fun. It is only the will of the grandstand crowd that carries Sabatini through the second set, to tie with Carlson who had taken the first. The anguish is palpable, even up here in the gods, when she produces two awful service games in the third and finally surrenders the match. It is the big upset of the day.

"I know this doesn't have the charm or

beauty of Wimbledon," ventures Mol-

ley Winder, a Londoner on the bench next

to me, who was at the English champion-

ship this year. "But there is something

about the energy and excitement of being

here. People are always exchanging opin-

ions and comments, whereas at Wimbledon it is so much more low key."

I turn my attention back to the stadium which by now is nearly full. Even the old lady in the wide-brimmed hat in what must be the New York equivalent of the Royal Box has shaken herself into consciousness.

Sampras has just lost the fourth set against Novak, making it two sets all and the spectre of another upset is suddenly looming. It is 2-1 Novak, with Sampras getting ready to serve, when the crowd suddenly explodes into applause for no apparent reason.

The stadium is making it plain whom it supports.

A black woman behind me - one of the very few black faces in spite of our being in Queens - is screaming over and over: "C'mon Petey, this is the Grand Slam."

The stadium is making it plain whom it supports.

An hour later and Novak has been

thrillingly overcome and all my frustrations of earlier in the day are forgotten.

"That's the wonderful thing about tennis," a father explains to his young daughter as we file out from the terraces. "You never know if the matches are going to be boring, or incredibly exciting like that one."

She looks at him doubtfully, but I have to agree. It is time, though, to get back to John McEnroe and the No 7 to the Manhattan dusk.

Carlson, while on

the stadium court, the No 1 seed, Sam-

pras, is sinking into serious trouble

against the youngster, Jim Novak.

So, I admit, I start to have fun. It is only the will of the grandstand crowd that carries Sabatini through the second set, to tie with Carlson who had taken the first. The anguish is palpable, even up here in the gods, when she produces two awful service games in the third and finally surrenders the match. It is the big upset of the day.

"I know this doesn't have the charm or

beauty of Wimbledon," ventures Mol-

ley Winder, a Londoner on the bench next

to me, who was at the English champion-

ship this year. "But there is something

about the energy and excitement of being

here. People are always exchanging opin-

Authorities must consider game at all levels

From Mr N Hynes
There is considerable anger here in Ireland at the Rugby Football Union's decision to "go it alone".

Many of us have played at all lev-

evels against counterparts in England.

I played as a schoolboy in 1973

against St George's, Weybridge, and

played my last match in September

1995 as a guest for Old Reigatians.

We regularly host club sides from

England and they enjoy the cam-

radeerie of mingling with people who

share their love of rugby.

The counter-measures being con-

sidered would preclude contact at

all levels. Who will the English

schools play? It would be indis-

cious to suggest touring every year

at that level. The feeder system that

has been nurtured over the last 15

years will be destroyed.

We do not want a rift between the

clubs and the RFU. We will not ac-

cept the attitude adopted by Mr

Richardson, the RFU president. I

agree that there is nothing better to

raise the dander of a Celt than the

prospect of a tilt against the old en-

emy. It is respectful and win or lose,

we enjoy the conviviality of post-

match celebrations. Do not split

with the RFU, I say to English

clubs, give Mr Richardson a brain.

NIALL HYNES

Dublin

From Tetteh Turkson

Having read David Llewellyn's report

on the imminent rugby union season

in today's *Independent* (28 August),

I am in agreement with much of what

he has said. However, to suggest that

association football shows money

cannot buy success is surely naive.

Although Blackburn may be in the

doldrums, we know that a few flashes

of Jack Walker's newly replenished

chequebook will put them once

again in a position to win trophies.

Football shows us that these clubs

with financial back-up will consi-

stently outperform gutsy teams, even

with proud traditions.

However, football has shown

a good chance of being just behind

the "gang of four". They have not yet

been major players in the transfer

market, but already have great qual-

ity in all areas. Add this to the team

spirit gained from relegation and the

best coach in the northern hemi-

SPORTING LETTERS

novel. The key to transfers seems to me to be to retain young players with potential and to consolidate these with one or two (or more if you can afford them) big signings. Thus Harlequins may live to regret the loss of Will Greenwood and Simon Mitchell, both of whom have big futures, to major rivals. Saracens have bought themselves a real chance of honours with Lynagh and Sella, the best in the world in their respective teams at their peak.

I see Northampton as also having a good chance of being just behind the "gang of four". They have not yet been major players in the transfer market, but already have great quality in all areas. Add this to the team spirit gained from relegation and the best coach in the northern hemi-

sphere and you have a potent com-

bination.

They only lack the depth of talent

of "the gang of four", but should be

able to overcome most of the rest.

Remember, also, how comprehen-

sively they beat even London Irish

last season in National League Two

and how close they were to Bath in the Pilkington Cup. With perhaps

one or two signings, they might

challenge the might of union's top

teams of the decade.

TETTEH TURKSON

London SES

From Mr D Nicol

I am writing to express my concern

about possible preferential treatment

by the Test and County Cricket

Board towards certain countries

when allocating tours to England.

D NICOL

4 the cricket pages

Paul Grayson
He encouraged the art to develop, as early as four years old, using contacts made through his new sporting passion to arrange practice sessions with some of the world's top names, and a connection made among them.

NatWest Trophy Final: Essex and Lancashire meet at Lord's on Saturday

Yorkshire pair come face to face

Michael Austin
spoke to

Glen Chapple
whose talent with
seam has helped
him, at 22, to his
third Lord's final

Already, Glen Chapple is his own man. Fresh-faced and freckled, maybe, and perhaps lacking the brashness of a young Ian Botham, who took on the world and won. But, at 22, the Lancashire seam bowler is just three days away from his third Lord's final, in the NatWest Trophy against Essex.

Chapple has studious, smouldering thoughts and "talks" a good game, as well as turning theory into practice – the triple legacy of playing since the age of six, an upbringing in the Lancashire kagges and being an eager listener to those such as the Pakistan captain Wasim Akram in the Old Trafford dressing-room.

Going back to Lord's, he believes, is the hard part, or rather travelling to the ground. Chapple said: "The journey there on match-morning is the most nervous time. Once I'm changed, the tension goes and I enjoy it. The best bit of my two Benson & Hedges finals was actually being on the field when we won."

Lancashire beat both Kent and Northamptonshire, with Chapple being preferred, somewhat controversially, to the Zimbabwean overseas player Steve Elworthy for the second match two months ago. Chapple's own memories are of dismissing both Kent openers, Trevor Ward and David Fulton, cheaply last year, "bowling the odd dodgy over" and taking two more wickets last time.

A Yorkshire accent conceals Chapple's Lancashire roots. Born in the Dales town of Skipton, famous for its castle and street market, he has lived in Earby, adjacent to Barnoldswick, renowned for its all-different 12-letter name and mattress industry.

Cricket has still not been a bed of roses, red or white, for Chapple, despite his record 16 games, spanning six "Test" series, for England Under-19 from the age of 17, together with his prominent part in the England A team's 3-0 win in India two winters ago. There was nothing to choose between his excellence and that of his new-ball partner Dominic Cork, since an England graduate.

Phil Neale, the team manager, recalled: "Chapple and Cork were the significant duo. Chapple had an outstanding tour. We lost the toss in every "Test" on turning wickets but our opening bowlers had 31 wickets between them, compared with their 13. Chapple, who took 19, and Cork with 12, invariably knocked over two or three early batsmen, which was crucial." Chapple has swiftly developed into a richly promising seam and swing bowler. Like and strong, he possesses a winner's temperament but reflects on the Indian tour like someone celebrating a silver wedding anniversary while trying to recall his first date. "It all seems a long time ago," he said. "The pitches were flat and low and we just bowled accurately. My own season after that tour was just average. I lost form, had a few injuries but this summer has been all right. I have not set the world alight, yet not taken any backward steps."



Chapple: nearing 50 first-class wickets this season. Photograph: Mike Hewitt / Allsport

Jon Culley finds
Paul Grayson in
confident mood
after his move
south to Essex
has seen a return
to form, and runs

"I'm Essex through and through," Paul Grayson says, as if to emphasise his professional commitment in the way sportsmen do. There is nothing odd in the statement at all, except that it is delivered in an accent rather closer to Darren Gough than Graham Gooch.

Grayson, 25 last March, is a Yorkshireman and in his heart would probably sooner be sporting a white rose on his cap against the red of Lancashire in Saturday's NatWest Trophy final. Instead, following his winter move to Chelmsford, he will arrive at Lord's wearing the three stars of the southern county.

There are not too many others in the Essex dressing-room whose vowels come out like his. The closest, ironically, belong to Ronnie Irani, the exiled Lancastrian. But in no way does Grayson feel uncomfortable with his new allegiance. "I'd always wanted to play cricket for Yorkshire but I had become pretty unhappy with the way things were and coming here has worked out really well for me," he said. "And even though it is Lancashire we meet on Saturday, I'll be trying to win for Essex, not Yorkshire."

His happy days at Headington began to go sour, oddly, in the wake of his best year, when he had seemed to be developing into a useful batsman, with a place in Yorkshire's middle-order there for the taking.

"When Richie Richardson went home suffering from fatigue in 1994, I'd batted at No 4 and made runs," he said. "It was my best season and I thought I had done well enough to secure my place in the team."

"I was under the impression the club were satisfied and it looked as though they would take on a bowler as the overseas player for 1995. But then things changed and they went back to looking for a batter. Michael Bevan came and I found myself dropping down to No 7 again. To make matters worse, after three or four bad games I was left out of the team."

Soon, the positive way in which the previous summer had ended, his maiden century and the run of scores that had taken him past 1,000 for the season, seemed to be a fading memory. He went to the captain to confess his disillusionment.

"Although I was still getting games in the Sunday League and the NatWest," he said, "I wanted to play in the Championship. But they did not seem to have much confidence in me."

"I told Martin Moxon I was pretty unhappy. He said he did not want me to leave but that he respected how I felt and told me he would talk to the committee. Happily, they understood my situation and did not contest my move."

He was delighted when word of his unrest caused Essex to take an interest, even more when they offered him a three-year contract. From their point of view, Grayson represented another opportunity to turn one county's reject into their valuable asset.

Already they have reaped a dividend. With two more first-class centuries to his name, Grayson is averaging in the 40s



Grayson: rewarding Essex's faith in his ability. Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

and closing on another 1,000-run season. "People ask me how Essex get the best out of people and I tell them that in my case they have given me a lot of confidence by believing in me," he said. "When you go out you feel you have their complete backing, which was not the case at Yorkshire." Indeed, with Darren Robinson out with a broken finger, they may well demonstrate their faith by asking him to open on Saturday.

But if the words of encouragement in the dressing-room come with an alien twang, support from elsewhere will sound more like home. Friends and family from Bedale, where he grew up, and Bradford, where he lives, will be at Lord's in numbers, although with one notable absentee in his elder brother, Simon, who is due to be playing Premiership football with Leicester City instead.

"My father was the PE teacher at the school we went to and we grew up playing sports together," he said. "We'd drag my dad to unlock the sports hall for us on Sunday afternoons even. Simon played cricket for Yorkshire Schools and I was offered an apprenticeship at Midlothian, so we both could have taken up the other's career. In the end, each of us did what we wanted most."

"We've always been close and in a way our lives have followed a similar path in that we have both had to leave Yorkshire to develop our careers. He had ambitions with Leeds and it was a disappointment to him when he did not fit in with Howard Wilkinson's plans."

"But his career has taken off at Leicester and I'd like to think mine will with Essex. I feel really at home there. I've been in rented accommodation this year while my wife has stayed on in Bradford but we have a baby on the way and we'll be looking to move down to Chelmsford as a family."

An Essex man is born...

THE INDEPENDENT CRICKET LINES

International
Tour Line
0891 881 485

All Counties
News and Results
0891 525 075

Derbyshire 0891 525 370

Durham 0891 525 371

Essex 0891 525 372

Glamorgan 0891 525 373

Gloucs. 0891 525 374

Hampshire 0891 525 375

Kent 0891 525 376

Lancashire 0891 525 377

Leics. 0891 525 378

Middlesex 0891 525 379

Northants 0891 525 380

Notts. 0891 525 381

Somerset 0891 525 382

Surrey 0891 525 383

Sussex 0891 525 384

Warwicks. 0891 525 385

Worcesters. 0891 525 386

Yorkshire 0891 525 387

Mobiles 0891 881 485

A ban on overseas players? Just remember that first ball Shane Warne bowled Gatting – and Gatting's face

The race to sign Waqar Younis (won by Glamorgan) seems to confirm the powerful position of the overseas player in our domestic cricket season. Several counties were queuing up to woo the prized reverse swinger, and no wonder – he's a man you'd rather have with you than against you. Mushtaq Ahmed has emerged from the mayhem he caused in the Test series to confirm that he, too, is anxious to play for Somerset next season, and is hoping to bag a hundred wickets or so.

This is good news for county cricket, a game that needs all the help it can get. Just as the sudden appearance of top foreign footballers has injected life and style into our musclebound Premier League, so the presence of the best overseas cricketers has given lustre to an otherwise pootisher competition. You have only to consider the talents that have spent

their summers here in recent years: Brian Lara, Allan Donald, Aravinda de Silva, Carl Hooper, Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Ian Bishop, Anil Kumble, Mushtaq Ahmed, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Sachin Tendulkar, Mark Waugh ... it is a long and impressive list.

And it is part of a tradition that goes back a long way. The roll call of great names sounds like a Who's Who of international cricket: Gary Sobers, Clive Lloyd, Viv Richards, Michael Holding, Malcolm Marshall, Allan Border, Martin Crowe, Richard Hadlee, Imran Khan, Mike Proctor, Barry Richards and scores of others. What kind of summers would we have had if these men had not warmed them?

So it is odd that voices should increasingly be raised against the presence of overseas players in our counties. Lancashire

have been leading the argument, proposing that we might do better without them, that they are merely using us as a finishing school to perfect their own talents (entirely ignoring the flip side, which is that we get the chance both to learn from them and to work them out). The recent Afzield report actually went so far as to propose a ban on imports. Fortunately, the counties voted it out. But there will be a "moratorium" in 1999, the year of the World Cup, when the world's top players will be unavailable, and there is still plenty of muttering to the effect that the ban should be extended into the next millennium.

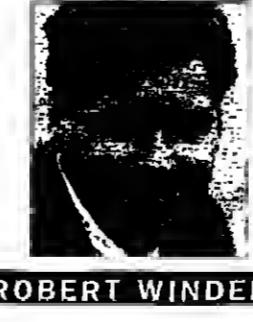
Is it just me, or is all this talk absolutely juvenile and beyond belief? Talk about shooting ourselves in the foot. We know from bitter experience how we have fared, in recent years, against West Indian and

11th best player in Worcester, or Leicestershire, or Durham; that the nation's 12th men are the future of the game? The sad truth is that the boot is, if anything, on the other foot. Overseas stars, are, increasingly, turning their back on our skin-breaking assault course of a season. Brian Lara tore up his contract with Warwickshire, Brian McMillan was urged not to join Surrey, and when Warwickshire sounded out Shane Warne they were told politely where to put their offer. There are signs that even the impoverished West Indians, who up to now have needed the work, will soon be less available than once they were.

There aren't many fields where isolation helps. And the idea that the highly paid overseas stars are keeping promising young England players out of the limelight ... well, what are we saying? That we need to make room for the

season was enough to scramble Lara's self-belief; surely, if we can get our hands on Shane Warne, we could give him some serious injury or other, or at least bore the zip out of his

Of course it would be appealing, as a spectator, to have the thrill of finally coming up against opponents we had only read about until then. But for our national cricket team it would surely be disastrous. That first ball Shane Warne bowled to Gatting a few years ago, the wonder ball that took out his off stump – remember the look of bemusement on Gatting's face? That image should be pinned to the desk of everyone who thinks overseas players should be excluded. It would swiftly become the emblematic expression of English cricket – startled, confused, disbelieving, and out of the count.



ROBERT WINDER

Pakistani bowlers. How on earth do we think we would perform were we not forewarned by meeting them in county games. Just imagine: there'd be a lot of gossip, as the players boarded planes to the Caribbean, about these chaps Marshall and Holding – apparently they were a bit nippy. Our players would insist that they weren't nervous – hell, no. They'd faced Munton and Iott

AL-AL-AZ-ZARAH

Redknapp broadens East End horizons

When Harry Redknapp had wings and the right touchline at Upton Park was his preserve, the ability to speak a foreign language was not high on the list of priorities for a West Ham player. In those days, talk of an arrival from overseas was usually meant the club had crossed the river to make a signing in south London.

Now you have to be a pretty good Englishman to win a place among the exotic names that have given lustre to the transfer activity with which Redknapp, the winger-turned-manager, has kept the East End club prominent in the marketplace over the last 12 months.

Be a Hammers fan and see the world - Bić, Rieper, Futre, Radučić, Dumitrescu and all the rest.

Along with Europe's borders, traditional xenophobic prejudice has been demolished throughout football, and Upton Park, where Alf Garnett once baulted out his bigotry, has become an unlikely home for many of the Continent's leading performers. Assuming all are fit, Redknapp could select a side to face Middlesbrough tonight with not one eligible to represent the country where they have chosen to earn their money

Ten years ago, West Ham players came from Barking. Trevor Haylett looks at how parochialism has been turned on its head at Upton Park

the spacious middleman, however, assuming managers have access to a computer and the know-how to link into the Internet. A Website, *Calcio Mercato* (Football Market) has been created by enthusiasts in Italy and supplies details of players seeking new clubs and clubs seeking new players.

When, towards the end of last season, another middleman telephoned the West Ham training ground with details of Futre and his likely availability, Redknapp knew this was not

to speak to Jim Smith [the Derby manager] and it was suggested that as he was flying into London, I could meet up with him at Heathrow."

Redknapp was not to know at the time, but the suggestion was crucial to the transfer. London was a big selling point, so was the fact that West Ham were the first to speak with him. Futre warmed to Redknapp's honesty and good humour and from there it was plain sailing.

"You have to feel right about a player, even one on a free

times last season and would have signed him, but his wife didn't want to go to Scotland. He was a player I'd seen many times on the television and I thought he could do well for us. After watching him score for Romania against Spain in the European Championships, I decided to go for him."

Where Futre and Radučić sold themselves through their reputations, Slaven Bić was an unknown commodity. "An agent mentioned he had a player in Germany who had just been voted their best centre-half and who wanted to come over to England."

"He offered me videos of the player, but I said I needed to see him first-hand and suggested he trained with us during their mid-season break. He was here for three weeks, but it was obvious after his first training session that he would be a valuable asset."

Accommodating the imports into both club and team is not as difficult as might be imagined. It's not always the case - witness the failed gamble on Dutchman Marco Boogers - but, in the main, West Ham have acquired players of substance as well as skill; intelligent individuals who have warmed to their new environment and worked hard to fit in.

"There is no problem with the other players, they can see that the new fellows are good players and that makes them accepted immediately. Nor is the language a problem. Apart from Futre, they all speak English already and he is studying every night to do the same."

"They are all good lads and willingly join in all the different things we do to raise money for charity. It's funny to see Futre on the coach because he takes over the whole show. He's also a bit of a magician off the field and keeps the others amused with a whole repertoire of tricks."



The international class: (left to right) West Ham's Mark Bowen (Wales), Iain Dowie (Northern Ireland), Slaven Bić (Croatia), Michael Hughes (Northern Ireland), Stan Lazarides (Australia), and Paulo Futre (Portugal). Photograph: Adam Scott

Redknapp could select a side to face Middlesbrough tonight with not one player eligible to represent the country where they have chosen to earn their money

a name he could afford to sign-off to the wastebasket.

This was a player of high quality, a Portuguese international with service at a host of top clubs, including Real Madrid and Milan, and he could be a valuable acquisition.

"I told the agent at that time that I would be interested if the player could prove his fitness," Redknapp said. "He had been out nearly all last season with a serious knee injury. In the event, Paulo himself suggested a clause in the contract giving the club a way out if he was to break down again."

The agent told me other clubs were interested - in Japan and Italy - while, in this country, Derby were chasing him. Derby were chasing him hard. He was coming over to

transfer. With Futre, I liked him from the start. He had something about him and I could see why he captained his club at 20 and went on to captain his country. We more or less agreed a deal there and then and later that night he phoned to say he would be signing."

Redknapp considers himself fortunate that the club's directors give him a free hand in the transfer market while retaining the final say regarding finance.

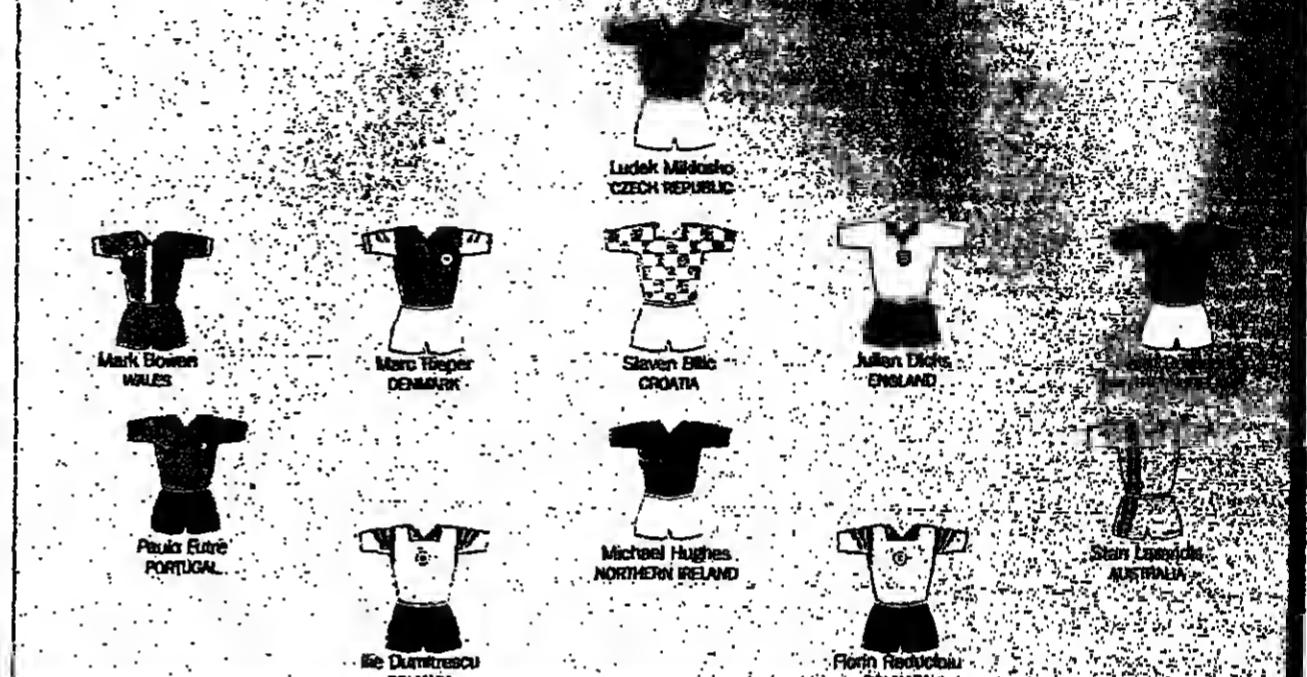
They have not been big spenders in the past; the deal that took the Romanian striker Florin Radučić from the Spanish club Espanyol for £2.4m was easily the most they have paid for a player.

"I know Glasgow Rangers had watched him four or five times last season and would have signed him, but his wife didn't want to go to Scotland. He was a player I'd seen many times on the television and I thought he could do well for us. After watching him score for Romania against Spain in the European Championships, I decided to go for him."

Redknapp was not to know at the time, but the suggestion was crucial to the transfer. London was a big selling point, so was the fact that West Ham were the first to speak with him. Futre warmed to Redknapp's honesty and good humour and from there it was plain sailing.

"You have to feel right about a player, even one on a free

WEST HAM: UNITED NATIONS OF EAST LONDON



From Philippe Albert to Tony Yeboah: A complete guide to the

Arsenal

DENNIS BERGKAMP
Striker
Nationality: Dutch
Age: 27

Arrived from Internazionale (£7.5m) July 1995

Scored 16 goals in his first season at Highbury, but also created many more and was the key figure in leading the club into this season's UEFA Cup. Has been unsettled by the sacking of Bruce Rioch, but Arsenal will need him at his best if they are to push for honours this season.

REMI GARDE
Defender/midfielder
Nationality: French
Age: 30

Arrived from Strasbourg (free)

August 1996

A little-known former French international who is yet to make his Arsenal debut because of injury. He has a reputation as an adaptable player, who is equally comfortable in defence and midfield. A team-mate at Strasbourg of Chelsea's central defender Franck Leboeuf.

GLENN HEIDER
Winger
Nationality: Dutch
Age: 27

Arrived from Vitesse Arnhem (£2m) February 1995

A skilful winger who has struggled to produce his best form in the Premiership. Disappointed last season, missing only 15 appearances, scoring just one goal, his first for the club.

PATRICK VIEIRA
Midfielder
Nationality: French
Age: 22

Arrived from Milan (£3.5m) August 1996

Recommended to Arsenal by their prospective new manager Arsène Wenger, Vieira is still in Italy receiving treatment on a knee injury. Billed as an attacking creative midfielder.

Aston Villa

MARK BOSNICH
Goalkeeper
Nationality: Australian
Age: 24

Arrived from Sydney Croatia to Manchester United (£600k) February 1992

Played a handful of games and then returned to Sydney Croatia, before buying out his contract to join Villa. The Australian has established himself as one of the Premier League's best goalkeepers. Was a key factor in helping Villa claim a European spot this season.

SASA CURRIC
Midfielder
Nationality: Yugoslavian
Age: 24

Arrived from Partizan Belgrade at Bolton (£4m) August 1995. Moved to Villa for £4m last month.

Showed last season his array of skills and ability to take on players and score spectacular goals. Already showing why his manager Brian Little invested so much for his services.

SAVO MILOSEVIC

Striker
Nationality: Yugoslavian
Age: 23

Arrived from Partizan Belgrade (23.5m) August 1995

Had a disappointing start to his first season in England, scoring only 12 league goals. The Serb striker is capable of better.

FERNANDO NELSON

Defender
Nationality: Portuguese
Age: 24

Arrived from Sporting Lisbon (£1.75m) August 1996

Villa signed him ahead of Tottenham and he has a tremendous reputation, but yet to grab his share of attention.

DWIGHT YORKE

Striker
Nationality: Trinidad and Tobago
Age: 24

Arrived from Signal Hill (£120,000) December 1989

Visited player of the year for last season after scoring 28 goals and is regarded as one of the top strikers in Britain. Great close control and can run at players with pace.

Blackburn Rovers

HENNING BERG

Defender
Nationality: Norwegian
Age: 27

Arrived from Lillestrom (£400,000)

January 1993

A reliable defender, who played a prominent role in helping Rovers clinch the Premiership title two years ago. Berg is a tough tackling player who has made the right back position his own.

Chesterfield

ROBERTO DI MATTER

Midfielder
Nationality: Italian

Age: 29

Arrived from Lazio (£4.9m) June 1996

Skilled midfield player who has the experience of playing in the top league. Has the potential to be a star player in the Premiership this season.

RUDI GULLIT

Libero
Nationality: Dutch
Age: 34

Arrived from Sampdoria (free) July 1995

Still regarded as a world-class player and an unfound success for Chelsea, but out injured following a knee operation. Has now to prove himself as a manager.

ERLAND JOHNSON

Defender
Nationality: Norwegian
Age: 29

Arrived from Bayern Munich (£300,000) December 1989

Stocky centre-half who struggled to command a regular first-team place last season, but who is always reliable.

DIMITRI KHARIN

Goalkeeper
Nationality: Russian
Age: 28

Arrived from CSKA Moscow

Still to make an impact on the Premiership after starting only one league match last season.

Derby County

JOHN PILAN

Goalkeeper
Nationality: Australian
Age: 25

Arrived from St Johnstone (£20,000) August 1991

An outstanding centre-half and a bargain in the modern transfer market. Very accomplished on the ball and great in the air.

DAN PETRESCU

Defender
Nationality: Romanian
Age: 28

Arrived from Benfica (£1.25m) August 1994

Switched to Chelsea for double that fee last October.

Attacking wing-back who has fitted well into Chelsea's back-line. Normally employed in a five-man-defence, Petrescu

gives Chelsea an extra attacking option with his pace on the wing.

GIROLAMI VIALLI

Striker
Nationality: Italian
Age: 32

Arrived from Juventus (free) June 1995

One of the world's top strikers. He has played at the highest level and has scored goals on both the domestic and international scene. Was left out of the Italian squad for Euro 96, but is already showing star quality for Chelsea.

FRANCK LEBOEUF

Defender
Nationality: French
Age: 26

Arrived from Sampdoria (free) July 1995

Returning to fitness after almost a season out with knee injuries.

PAUL GOLINI

Defender
Nationality: French
Age: 24

Arrived from Strasbourg (£2.5m) June 1996

An outstanding centre-half and a bargain in the modern transfer market. Very

accomplished on the ball and great in the air.

ROSS GENEVAUX

Wing-back
Nationality: Belgian
Age: 23

Arrived from Standard Liège (£1m)

August 1996

A skilful wing-back who has already been capped 23 times by Belgium. He has yet to make

love to hate - an instant hero at the Baseball Ground.

JACOB LAURSEN

Defender
Nationality: Danish
Age: 24

Arrived from Silkeborg (£200,000)

July 1996

A former clerk, who has only been a professional for a year, but is a key member of the Danish international squad.

Has been signed for his versatility and should be able to stand up to the rigours of the Premiership.

KOOR STRMAC

Defender
Nationality: Croatian
Age: 29

Arrived from Hajduk Split (£1.57m) October 1995

Talented centre-half who helped to bring the Rams into the Premiership with some

commanding performances last season. Has become a clear favourite with the fans and will look to make a big impact this season.</p

Hidden Personality
He chose the right two weeks – the only two weeks when his game really counts for the average Brit – and suddenly became the biggest teeny idol here since that Swede he'd met as a toddler.

Foreign body blocking English lifeblood

Erland Johnsen believes the influx of European players is ruining the national game – and he should know. Clive White spoke to him

"All these foreigners coming into the Premiership, it cannot be good for the future of the national team, however much the clubs and spectators may benefit from their presence."

No, that's not Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, talking about the threat to his members' livelihood, nor a disgruntled, displaced Premiership footballer. It's Erland Johnsen, the Norwegian representative at the "League of Nations" along the Fulham Road.

A touch hypocritical it might be, but you have to admire Johnsen for his honesty. If he had lost his first-team place at Chelsea to one of the new imports, his point of view would have been entirely understandable. After all, having been here for nearly seven years he is entitled to think of himself as one of us. But Johnsen is first choice at centre-back and the chief threat to his continued selection comes from an Englishman, Michael Duberry.

Johnsen has even had the temerity to voice his reservations about the English game's foreign policy back home in Norway and been criticised for it. "It's difficult for me," he said. "People think I should keep quiet and hope that more of my countrymen can come over to earn a living. It's good for the fans because they can watch some really good players and the clubs will have a better chance of doing well in Europe, but it just makes it even more difficult for young home-grown talents to come through."

"They end up, in some cases, having to move down two divisions because there are foreigners in the First Division now. On the other hand, they can learn technique from the foreigners and how to play the European way, but in the long term I don't think it's good. We'll see in about 10 years time if I'm right."

The prospect of a Norwegian playing football for a top professional Eng-

lish club was once about as likely as an Englishman winning Olympic gold at Nordic skiing. Then Norway beat England 2-1 in a World Cup qualifier in Oslo in 1981, inspiring a memorable piece of dispassionate reporting from one Bjørge Lilleien, a Norwegian commentator. "Are you listening, Maggie Thatcher – your boys took a hell of a beating here tonight," he blurted, beside himself with joy.

English managers began to take notice, although it was still a few years before Eric Thorstvedt joined Tottenham and was asked by the tabloids to don one of those ridiculous Viking helmets for photo purposes. "It was a big thing at the time, that victory," Johnsen recalls. "Norwegian players would take their autograph books with them when they played England and the most important thing was to swap shirts after the game. Things have changed a bit since then."

It was only with the arrival of Thorstvedt and Johnsen that English clubs woke up to the fact that Scandinavians represented excellent value for money at a time when their own transfer market was spiralling out of control. A well-known Norwegian agent arranged Johnsen's move to Chelsea for £300,000 (although it might just as easily have been to Queen's Park Rangers) when other English clubs were asking at least twice that for players of similar ability. "Most Scandinavians you've had seem to settle in OK," he said. "We know the language and the way of living much the same."

However, his career at Chelsea hasn't always been a happy one. Under Ian Porterfield, he was ready to pack his bags and return to Norway after playing just 14 first-team games in the space of two years. "Being in the reserves for so long I wasn't motivated to go anywhere else," he said. "I don't think clubs over here would have wanted me, not in the Premiership. It's harder for a foreign-

value for money at a time when their own transfer market was spiralling out of control. A well-known Norwegian agent arranged Johnsen's move to Chelsea for £300,000 (although it might just as easily have been to Queen's Park Rangers) when other English clubs were asking at least twice that for players of similar ability. "Most Scandinavians you've had seem to settle in OK," he said. "We know the language and the way of living much the same."

However, his career at Chelsea hasn't always been a happy one. Under Ian Porterfield, he was ready to pack his bags and return to Norway after playing just 14 first-team games in the space of two years. "Being in the reserves for so long I wasn't motivated to go anywhere else," he said. "I don't think clubs over here would have wanted me, not in the Premiership. It's harder for a foreign-



Capturing the youth vote: Erland Johnsen cuts a popular figure at Chelsea's training ground yesterday

Photograph: Peter Jay

er to stay happy in the reserves because you're away from home, you haven't got your family and friends, although you make new ones, I was ready to swap it all for a free transfer back to Norway."

The appearance of David Wehr

– albeit briefly – at Stamford Bridge, however, resuscitated his career and under Glenn Hoddle and now Ruud Gullit he has become almost a regular fixture in the side. Not so the Norwegian national team, in which

that other Johnsen, Manchester United's Ronny, and Henning Berg are now the first-choice pairing. I'm not too bothered so long as I'm playing for Chelsea. I'm really enjoying myself now and we've got a good side which can only get better," he said. Johnsen, who is 29, has never been close to fear competition. When he left Moss, his home-town club, to join Bayern Munich, he found himself up against Klaus Augenthaler, Stefan Reuter and Jürgen Kohler. The

young Johnsen thought he should have been first choice, and despite keeping the emerging Kohler out of the team for a while, he eventually lost his place and for a move.

Partly because of the ferocity of the competition, Johnsen didn't find the atmosphere as friendly as it is at Chelsea. "The style in Germany didn't suit me as well as it does here, I prefer a more physical game. They played man-to-man marking which I didn't particularly care for. The

Norwegian game is more similar to the English, although it's changed here since I came. Most teams here try to play more football now."

While playing in England always held a fascination for him (his bedroom walls as a boy were plastered with Manchester United posters), money, he admits, was the major attraction. Back in Norway he earned £5,000 the year Moss won the league title and had to supplement his earnings by working as a bank clerk.

Although fearful of the long-term effect England's infatuation with foreigners might have upon its international aspirations, Johnsen has no sympathy for the clubs. "It's of their own choosing," he said. "Of course you can have English players going in the opposite direction, but when you go abroad you have to make sacrifices. If the Englishman doesn't have his steak and kidney pie, he's struggling. But then I suppose you've got everything here now – even the money."

comings and goings of the Premiership's 84 overseas players

ZELJKO KALAC
Goalkeeper
Nationality: Australian
Age: 23
Arrived from: Sydney United (£1.5m) August 1995
Has had a disappointing spell at Leicester, making only one league appearance for them and has recently been linked with a move to join his former boss Mark McGhee at Wolves.

KASEY KELLER
Goalkeeper
Nationality: American
Age: 27
Arrived from: Portland University to Millwall (free) February 1992. Switched to Leicester for £900,000 last month.
Showed at Millwall why he is rated so highly with some outstanding performances. He is the US first choice goalkeeper and could be a big Premiership success if City survive.

FRANCK ROLLING
Defender
Nationality: French
Age: 28
Arrived from: FC Paul (£100,000) October 1995.
A tough tackling defender who has already made a name for himself at Ribet Street, making 17 league appearances last season.

LIVERPOOL
PATRICK BERGER
Midfielder
Nationality: Czech
Age: 22
Arrived from: Borussia Dortmund (£3.5m) August 1996.
Exciting midfielder who starred for the Czech Republic in the European Championships. Still awaiting his Anfield debut.

STIG INGE BJØRNBEV
Defender
Nationality: Norwegian
Age: 26
Arrived from: Rosenborg Trondheim (£200,000) December 1992.
Has held down a regular first-team place so far this season and is clearly well thought of by his manager Roy Evans.

Manchester United

ERIC CANTONA
Striker
Nationality: French
Age: 30
Arrived from: Nimes to Leeds (£900,000) February 1992 after a trial with Sheffield Wednesday. Joined Manchester United for £1.2m nine months later.
Won his third Championship medal last season after guiding United to a unique double. Scored 19 goals, including a spectacular winner against Liverpool in the FA Cup final.

JORDI CRUYFF
Striker
Nationality: Dutch
Age: 22
Arrived from: Barcelona (£1m) July 1996.
An instant hit at Old Trafford, and clearly one to watch as the season progresses.

RONNY JOHNSEN
Defender
Nationality: Norwegian
Age: 26
Arrived from: Besiktas (£1.5m) July 1996.

Not the biggest name at United, but has already shown enough composure to prove he will be an important part of Alex Ferguson's squad.

KAREL POBOŘSKÝ
Winger
Nationality: Czech
Age: 24
Arrived from: Slavia Prague (£3.5m) July 1995.

Scored a wonder goal in Euro 96 and is a signing of great promise. Will, however, have to score more regularly to earn a permanent starting place.

OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJAER
Striker
Nationality: Norwegian
Age: 23
Arrived from: Molde (£1.5m) July 1995.

He looks 12, but plays with the assurity of a seasoned professional and has the temperament to become another successful import.

PETER SCHMEICHEL
Goalkeeper
Nationality: Danish
Age: 33
Arrived from: Brondby (£350,000) August 1993.

Has established himself as the best goalkeeper in Europe since joining United, where he wants to end his career.

RAIMUND VAN DER GOUD
Goalkeeper
Nationality: Dutch
Age: 26
Arrived from: Vitesse Arnhem (undisclosed) July 1996.
An experienced goalkeeper, signed as cover for Schmeichel.

Middlesbrough

BRUNO
Defender
Nationality: Brazilian
Age: 23
Arrived from: São Paulo (£4.5m) October 1995.

The bizarrest of all the tales of imported woe. In January 1996, Newcastle boasted a 12-point lead in the Premiership, and the acquisition of "Tino" was supposed to be the final piece in their jigsaw. But the pictures of his arrival gave away some early misgivings: the gangly striker, fresh from the luxurious lifestyle he enjoyed in Italy, looked to be positively shellshocked when he arrived in blizzard conditions, despite sporting a Liberace-style fur coat to ward off the cold. Indeed, a vicious head-butt on his debut confirmed that he was just too hot for England – or at least too hot-headed. His arrival unbalanced a successful side, and the rest, as they say, is history.

FABRIZIO RAVANELLI
Striker
Nationality: Italian
Age: 27
Arrived from: Juventus (£2.7m) July 1995.

Scored a hat-trick on his debut and although thought to be past his best in Italy, has the potential to become a leading striker in Britain.

Newcastle United

PHILIPPE ALBERT
Defender
Nationality: Belgian
Age: 29
Arrived from: Anderlecht (£2.85m) August 1994.

Rapidly establishing himself as one of the best midfielders in the Premiership. Strong and full of flair, he should be a big hit.

JAN AGE EIKJORT

Striker
Nationality: Norwegian
Age: 29
Arrived from: Rapid Vienna to Swindon (£200,000) July 1993. Joined Middlesbrough for £1.3m in March 1995.

His place at Boro is uncertain,

but, after a slow start in England, he has proved to be a regular goalscorer.

Faustino Asprilla
Striker
Nationality: Colombian
Age: 27
Arrived from: Parma (£17.5m) February 1996.

In January 1996, Newcastle boasted a 12-point lead in the Premiership, and the acquisition of "Tino" was supposed to be the final piece in their jigsaw. But the pictures of his arrival gave away some early misgivings: the gangly striker, fresh from the luxurious lifestyle he enjoyed in Italy, looked to be positively shellshocked when he arrived in blizzard conditions, despite sporting a Liberace-style fur coat to ward off the cold. Indeed, a vicious head-butt on his debut confirmed that he was just too hot for England – or at least too hot-headed. His arrival unbalanced a successful side, and the rest, as they say, is history.

PAVEL ŠTOŘEK
Striker
Nationality: Czech
Age: 28
Arrived from: Sparta Prague (£2.5m) February 1997.

A good shot-stopper, but is prone to errors and has consequently dipped in and out of the side.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

ALF INGE HALLAND
Midfielder
Nationality: Norwegian
Age: 23
Arrived from: Young Boys (Switzerland) (£250,000) January 1994.

Another Euro 96 star for the quarter-finalists. A highly rated right-back who should prove to be a success.

BRUNO ROY

Striker
Nationality: French
Age: 29
Arrived from: Paris St-Germain (£2.5m) August 1995.

An outstanding first season has been followed by speculation that he may leave the club soon. A success on the pitch, but has struggled to adjust to life up North.

PAWEŁ SKRÓZEK

Goalkeeper
Nationality: Polish
Age: 28
Arrived from: Bank Ochrony Pracy (£2.5m) August 1994.

A close shot who sparked alongside Stan Collymore, but has failed to maintain those high standards and can be as frustrating as he can be brilliant.

ANDREA SILENZI

Striker
Nationality: Italian
Age: 30
Arrived from: Torino (£1.8m) August 1995.

A good shot-stopper, but is prone to errors and has consequently dipped in and out of the side.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

REGI BLUNDELL

Midfielder
Nationality: Dutch
Age: 27
Arrived from: Feyenoord (£1m) August 1995.

Disastrous time in England for this former Italian international, who is set for a cut-price move back to Italy, probably with Verona. Initially hampered by injury, he started only three league games for Forest.

Southampton, top

KEN MONKOU

Defender
Nationality: Dutch
Age: 21

Arrived from: Feyenoord (£2.5m) August 1995.

A real crowd pleaser and has added quality to the Hammers' defence. Outstanding in the air and excellent distribution in Bobby Moore mould.

JELLINE DUMITRESCU

Midfielder
Nationality: Romanian
Age: 27
Arrived from: Steaua Bucharest to Middlesbrough (£2.5m) August 1994. Moved to West Ham for £1.5m in March 1995.

Just overcoming his latest injury setback after a disappointing start to life in England at Middlesbrough. Undoubtedly possesses skill, but yet to show a genuine appetite for the Premiership.

PAULO FUTRE

Striker
Nationality: Portuguese
Age: 30
Arrived from: Milan (free) July 1996.

Reportedly wanted by Newcastle United at any price before they signed David Batty. Ideally suited to the English game even though he is at present out of favour with his manager Joe Kinnear.

Marco Boeger
Striker
Nationality: German
Age: 27
Arrived from: Eintracht Frankfurt (£1.5m) July 1996.

The Leeds manager, Howard Wilkinson, forced by West Ham's limited resources to scour the Continent for talent, beat other interested parties to sign the Dutch striker Marco Boeger for £500,000. Sent off in the first week of the season for a foul on the Manchester United defender Gary Neville, Boeger never looked back. By September, he had disappeared altogether. He was discovered living in a caravan in the Dutch countryside amid rumours that he had suffered a breakdown, and by the end of the season, he had been loaned out to Groningen after playing just 88 minutes for West Ham.

Tomas Brönn
Striker
Nationality: Swedish
Age: 27
Arrived from: Örebro (£1.5m) July 1996.

The Leeds manager, Howard Wilkinson, forced by West Ham's limited resources to scour the Continent for talent, beat other interested parties to sign the Dutch striker Marco Boeger for £500,000. Sent off in the first week of the season for a foul on the Manchester United defender Gary Neville, Boeger never looked back. By September, he had disappeared altogether. He was discovered living in a caravan in the Dutch countryside amid rumours that he had suffered a breakdown, and by the end of the season, he had been loaned out to Groningen after playing just 88 minutes for West Ham.

Mirandinha

Midfielder
Nationality: Brazilian
Age: 27
Arrived from: Palmeiras (Brazil) (£1.5m) July 1996.

In August 1997, Francisco Ermindo Ume De Silva, or Mirandinha, arrived at Newcastle from Palmeiras for £1m amid

THE INDEPENDENT **INDEPENDENT**
ON SUNDAY

PHILIPS
Let's make things better.

FANTASY FOOTBALL

Latest results and your chance to register



Today we publish the latest results in our Independent Fantasy Football game, supported by Philips Energy Saver Light Bulbs.

Listed below you will find two scores. The Week 3 (Wk 3) column shows all points scored in matches played between Monday 26 August - Sunday 1 September inclusive. The Overall (Ov) column shows the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday 1 September.

A league of the top scoring Independent Fantasy Football managers will be published weekly after the close of the registration period, when all entries have been received.

If you have not yet registered or if you would like to pick a new team, then it's not too late. See below for details on how to enter and how you could win tickets to the '98 World Cup or qualifying games.

PRIZES

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games at Wembley.

HOW TO ENTER

Using your football knowledge decide your team formation from the following four options:

FORMATION A. 4-4-2

4 Defenders, 4 Midfielders, 2 Strikers

FORMATION B. 4-3-3

4 Defenders, 5 Midfielders, 3 Strikers

FORMATION C. 5-2-2

5 Defenders, 3 Midfielders, 2 Strikers

FORMATION D. 3-5-2

3 Defenders, 5 Midfielders, 2 Strikers



Use our Team Selection form above right, to make a note of your team's details, then dial our registration hotline to register. Where possible, please try to use a tone telephone, although a traditional pulse telephone can be used if necessary. Make sure you follow the instructions on the phoneline carefully. At the end of your call you will be given your own special PIN number, which you must keep safe. It can be added to your Team Selection form.

HOW TO SCORE

Every time one of your players scores a goal you will be awarded four points. Four points will also be awarded for goalkeepers and defenders whose team have kept a clean sheet during a match. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e. if there is a one-goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded one bonus point in addition to the standard four points awarded for that goal. Each successful assist (a pass that, in the opinion of our team of experts, leads

directly to a goal) will give a player three points. The opinion of our experts on this matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

Players lose one point for a yellow card and three for a red card. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count for scoring purposes.

The Premiership manager that you choose will be awarded three points if their real-life team win, one point if they draw and no points if they lose.

Results will be published in The Independent every Wednesday for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also appear the following Sunday, in the Independent on Sunday.

If your player or manager has been injured or transferred out of the Premiership, there will be the chance to update your team in our transfer period, which will be announced soon. Please read the Rules and Conditions carefully before making your call.

Team Selection Form

| Name | Code | Value |
|--------------|------|-------|
| Goalkeeper | | |
| Defender 1 | | |
| Defender 2 | | |
| Defender 3 | | |
| Defender 4 | | |
| Defender 5 | | |
| Midfielder 1 | | |
| Midfielder 2 | | |
| Midfielder 3 | | |
| Midfielder 4 | | |
| Midfielder 5 | | |
| Striker 1 | | |
| Striker 2 | | |
| Striker 3 | | |
| Manager | | |

PIN No. Total £

Team Name:

POINT SCORES:
4 points for a goal ■ 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet ■ 3 points for a successful assist ■ 1 point when a player is selected and plays ■ 1 point for a winning goal ■ 3 points for a manager win, 1 point for a draw ■ Lose 1 point for a yellow card ■ Lose 3 points for a red card

Register today, call:

UK 0891-252-244 (tone)

UK 0891-252-234 (pulse)

Republic of Ireland: 1550 131 553

UK calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times. Republic of Ireland calls cost 58p per minute including VAT at all times. Maximum call length 65 minutes.

TEAM MARKET AND SCORES

| CODE | PLAYER | TEAM | POINTS | Wk3 | Ov | VALUE (£m) | CODE | PLAYER | TEAM | POINTS | Wk3 | Ov | VALUE (£m) | CODE | PLAYER | TEAM | POINTS | Wk3 | Ov | VALUE (£m) | CODE | PLAYER | TEAM | POINTS | Wk3 | Ov | VALUE (£m) | | |
|--------------------|------------|------|--------|-----|-----|------------|-------------|--------|------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------|--------|------|--------|----------|---------------|------------|------|--------|------|-----------|-------------|-----|------------|-----|-----|
| GOALKEEPERS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 301 | Sutman | ARS | 0 | 11 | 5.9 | 469 | Usworth | EVE | 0 | 14 | 3.0 | 553 | Pearce | WIM | 0 | 0 | 2.2 | 686 | Clark | NEW | 0 | 2 | 3.0 | 855 | Fowler | LIV | 0 | 7 | 9.5 |
| 303 | Bornich | AV | 0 | 0 | 4.0 | 460 | Hinchcliffe | EVE | 0 | 0 | 2.2 | 553 | Reeves | WIM | 0 | 0 | 1.8 | 687 | Wain | NOT | 0 | 3 | 3.4 | 856 | Claridge | LEI | 0 | 2 | 3.0 |
| 304 | Flowers | BLA | 0 | 3 | 5.2 | 463 | Jobson | LEE | 5 | 7 | 27 | 554 | Thorn | WDI | 0 | 0 | 1.8 | 688 | Bart Williams | NOT | 0 | 3 | 3.6 | 857 | Heskey | LEI | 0 | 12 | 2.8 |
| 305 | Kharin | CHE | 0 | 15 | 3.7 | 465 | Kelly | LEE | 5 | 7 | 3.6 | 555 | Thatcher | WIM | 0 | 1 | 2.7 | 689 | Stone | NOT | 0 | 1 | 5.0 | 858 | Robins | LEI | 0 | 1 | 2.0 |
| 306 | Hutchcock | CHE | 0 | 0 | 1.5 | 466 | Dorigo | LEE | 0 | 0 | 3.2 | 600 | Gemmell | NOT | 0 | 0 | 1 | 690 | Parker | LEI | 0 | 1 | 2.5 | 859 | Causton | MU | 0 | 6 | 8.1 |
| 307 | Ozicicovic | COV | 0 | 2 | 2.7 | 467 | Pemberton | LEE | 0 | 0 | 1.2 | 603 | Taylor | LEI | 0 | 0 | 6 | 691 | Shires | NOT | 0 | 0 | 1.6 | 860 | Scholes | MU | 0 | 1 | 5.0 |
| 308 | Filan | COV | 0 | 0 | 1.5 | 468 | Walsh | LEI | 0 | 6 | 2.2 | 604 | Waddle | SW | 0 | 0 | 2 | 692 | Evans | NOT | 0 | 0 | 2.1 | 861 | Cole | MU | 0 | 0 | 6.2 |
| 309 | Southall | EVE | 0 | 10 | 3.0 | 469 | Grayson | LEE | 0 | 7 | 2.2 | 605 | Izzet | LEI | 0 | 0 | 2 | 693 | Ramsey | NOT | 0 | 0 | 2.1 | 862 | Porter | MID | 0 | 0 | 3.1 |
| 310 | Maryn | LEE | 5 | 7 | 3.5 | 470 | Whidow | LEE | 0 | 7 | 1.2 | 606 | Barker | SW | 0 | 0 | 8 | 694 | Bramby | MID | 0 | 0 | 2.6 | 863 | Ravenscroft | SW | 0 | 0 | 8.0 |
| 311 | James | LIV | 0 | 11 | 4.7 | 471 | Watts | LEE | 0 | 7 | 1.6 | 607 | Hilder | ARS | 0 | 1 | 3.7 | 695 | Waddie | SW | 0 | 0 | 2 | 864 | Asprilla | NEW | 0 | 0 | 6.7 |
| 312 | Poole | LEE | 0 | 0 | 1.5 | 472 | Babb | LIV | 11 | 3.7 | 608 | Hillier | ARS | 0 | 2 | 1.5 | 696 | Blinker | SW | 0 | 0 | 2 | 865 | Beardsley | NEW | 0 | 0 | 4.4 | |
| 313 | Houli | DER | 0 | 3 | 1.6 | 473 | Jones (R) | LIV | 0 | 0 | 2.7 | 609 | Taylor | AV | 0 | 3 | 1.9 | 697 | Hyde | SW | 0 | 0 | 2.0 | 866 | Asprilla | NEW | 0 | 0 | 2.4 |
| 314 | Schmeichel | MU | 0 | 6 | 5.5 | 474 | Wright | LIV | 10 | 2.8 | 630 | Di Matteo | CHE | 0 | 0 | 4.4 | 698 | Magilton | SOT | 0 | 0 | 2.4 | 867 | Ferdinand | NEW | 0 | 0 | 8.6 | |
| 315 | Walsh | MID | 0 | 0 | 3.0 | 475 | Ruddock | LIV | 0 | 0 | 3.0 | 631 | Draper | AV | 0 | 3 | 4.1 | 699 | Vernon | SOT | 0 | 0 | 2.7 | 868 | Saunders | NOT | 0 | 0 | 9.5 |
| 316 | Smicer | NEW | 0 | 6 | 3.7 | 476 | Scales | LIV | 0 | 0 | 4.4 | 700 | Dennis | NOT | 0 | 0 | 7 | 701 | Heaney | SOT | 0 | 0 | 2.2 | 869 | Rodriguez | NOT | 0 | 0 | 4.8 |
| 317 | Hislop | NEW | 0 | 1 | 3.7 | 477 | Harkness | LIV | 0 | 0 | 2.2 | 701 | Gray | SUN | 0 | 0 | 7 | 702 | Campbell | NOT | 0 | 0 | 14 | 870 | Booth | SW | 0 | 0 | 3.1 |
| 318 | Crossley | NOT | 0 | 7 | 2.7 | 478 | Agnew | LIV | 0 | 0 | 3.7 | 703 | Ripley | BLA | 0 | 0 | 3.0 | 704 | Booth | SW | 0 | 0 | 8 | 871 | Hirst | SW | 0 | 0 | 5.5 |
| 319 | Wright | NOT | 0 | 0 | 1.3 | 479 | Salter | BLA | 0 | 0 | 2.2 | 705 | Sherwood | BLA | 0 | 2 | 3.4 | 705 | Agnew | SUN | 0 | 0 | 2 | 872 | Bright | SW | 0 | 0 | 2.5 |
| 320 | Beasani | SOT | 0 | 7 | 1.8 | 480 | Neville (G) | MU | 0 | 1 | 3.7 | 706 | Flitcroft | BLA | 0 | 2 | 3.0 | 706 | Anderson | T | | | | | | | | | |

Hidden Personality
But he's also won some tournaments - including three of the four big ones - and acquired the trappings of wealth, among them a £10-million private jet and a movie star girlfriend.

playing the game 11

The ultimate roller-coaster ride

SO YOU WANT TO... GO SKYDIVING

By Jason Gee



There was a time when sending someone on a parachute jump was considered exhilarating enough. But in the era of extreme sports, the PR gurus have been called in to make the image that bit more sexy. "Tandem skydive", "accelerated freefall", whatever the name is now, I was keen to take the plunge.

The order came in from the *Independent* HQ that I was to report to RAF Weston-on-the-Green, in Oxfordshire, at 1500hrs precisely, be pinned to the front of a British Parachute Association instructor with a slightly suspect sense of humour, thrown out of a plane at 12,000 feet, freefall at 125mph, and land on a postage stamp to tell the tale.

In the days before, my editor apologised for giving me what he felt was a dangerous assignment; friends taunted me with urban myths about faulty parachutes and splattered bodies; and my girlfriend insisted that I phoned her as soon as I landed. Everyone around me was writhing under the pressure, exaggerating the risks of what is a supremely thrilling, yet entirely safe experience.

The requirements for a tandem jump are simple: three forms need signing (declaring your fitness, an indemnity to the club, and 'third-party insurance'), 20 minutes of training concentrating on equipment and your shape in the air, and some final tips to ensure that nothing takes you by surprise. The whole event is organised with military precision and is made so straightforward that fear ceases to be an appropriate sensation.

The training involves the instructor (in my case the fit 3in colossus Dave Luke) explaining that the equipment is fail-safe, with so many back-up parachutes that he appeared to have enough material strapped to his back to carpet a small island. He further settles your nerves by explaining the workings of a pressure meter that would automatically pull the parachute if he was "to fall asleep or something", punctuating the sentence with a maniacal smile.

Once kitted out in the regulation jumpsuit, body harness and a rather ridiculous looking leather skull cap, you are packed tightly into a small, twin-engine, BN Islander. Adrenalin is kept in check as the professionals aboard bark words of encouragement and lighten the mood: "Hey Dave, you stopped taking those pills yet?" "Is that other journalist you took up out of hospital yet?" It was lucky my harness was so tight, otherwise I fear all that military humour would have split my sides. At about 8,000 feet the first of my instructor's top tips came to life. The pressure change causes some people to

suffer problems with flatulence, and the apprentice freefaller next to me was clearly and unpleasantly a sufferer. Getting out of the aircraft seemed a more attractive proposition altogether.

As people begin hurtling out of the aircraft at 12,000 feet, the immensity of what you are doing hits home for a fraction of a second, but before you know it, you are falling head first towards the ground. With a professional on your back, there is no need to worry about technical details, you are free to enjoy the incredible sensation of hurtling down towards the Oxfordshire countryside. It is the ultimate roller-coaster ride: I felt myself screaming excitedly, but the roar of the wind is so loud that you can't hear your own cry. Forty seconds pass in a flash, and when the parachute pops out at about 5,000 feet the first thought is one of relief, but of annoyance that we can't squeeze out a few more seconds.

As the chute opens to break the fall, you are momentarily disorientated by a violent jerk upwards; it instantly reminds of top tip number two. When Dave Luke was fitting the body harness on the ground, he was adamant that the leg straps fit snugly into the groin without trapping any part of the anatomy.

"We've all done it once and it's not something you ever do a second time," he had said. The eyes water at the mere thought.

The gentle journey down to earth was certainly peaceful and the countryside made a spectacular backdrop, but I couldn't help wondering what it would be like if I were to cut the strings and accelerate our progress towards the ground before engaging one of those ample back-up chutes. Sky divers use the chutes just to stop them from hitting the ground, but some people really enjoy the tranquillity of floating. Dave Luke said to me after we had landed perfectly about 10 feet from the hut where we had filled out forms an hour before.

Immediately after peeling myself off my companion, I found myself walking around with a ridiculous smile on my face, being kissed by women who had come up to congratulate me on the jump, and shaking the hands of men around me in that kind of surfer-clue thumb grip that all sky-divers seem to use.

The elation wears off a little after a few days, but the dreams of floating through the air are still incredibly vivid. It was a very special experience; that feeling of flying above the clouds with absolutely no fear will live with me for ever. My advice is organise it for someone as a one-off birthday or Christmas present - it's expensive, but extremely good value, because it is one gift that will never be discarded.

Look, no hands: Jason Gee takes to the air with the instructor Dave Luke firmly strapped to his back, trailing a drogue chute behind them. Photographs: Simon Ward

Chute by chute: a guide to how and where you can jump to it

British Parachute Association

Headquarters: 1000 London Road, London SW17 0QH

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Secretary: Mark O'Farrell

Telephone: 0181 458 0000

Established: 1977

British Parachute Association

Chairman: Steve Morris

Villeneuve poised to capitalise

Derick Allsop
says Williams' split
with Damon Hill
may have handed
the initiative to his
championship rival

Jacques Villeneuve could be excused an extra rush of adrenalin in the wake of the revelation that Damon Hill will be unloaded by Williams-Renault at the end of the season. Nothing personal, you understand, but business is business.

The Williams team-mates are the only remaining contenders for the Formula One World Championship, and although Hill has an apparently comfortable lead of 13 points with only three races remaining, he may not be feeling as secure as he might have.

At the height of summer and his confidence, Hill held a 25-point advantage and he was seemingly content for the newspapers to splash stories of his demands for a substantial pay rise. He radiated self-belief and the conviction that he had arrived as a champion.

Since those heady days, the script has gone somewhat awry for the 35-year-old Englishman. A series of poor starts have undermined his control of the races and his emotions. Suddenly the old flaws were exposed again and he could not resist criticising errors by a team mopping up a record eighth constructors' championship.

There was renewed speculation about his future, that his position for next season might not be safe. Williams was said to have extended their option on the services of Helmut-Harald Frentzen, the German driver long linked with them, and since Villeneuve was already under contract for 1997, it was clear where the threat hung.

All the time, too, Villeneuve was chipping away at his partner's lead. Hill's infamous dark countenance had returned.

Hill can push back the closing walls with victory in Sunday's Italian Grand Prix at Monza. He would become champion if, also, Villeneuve managed no better than fourth place. Hill says he is focussed on the championship, and Bernie Ecclestone, Formula One's impresario, suggests recent events will have made him drive "harder and better" to achieve his goal.

But another driver takes the view, "Damon will be under so much pressure it could crack him. What's happened to him will be screwing his mind."

Villeneuve, by contrast, will doubtless be even more chirpy than usual. He must feel he has gained a little additional psychological leverage this past week, and will endeavour to ex-



Team talk: Jacques Villeneuve (top) discusses tactics for the present season with his Williams-Renault boss, Frank Williams, while Damon Hill (below) talks of the future with Eddie Jordan, head of the Jordan racing team

loit it. You sense that psychological pressures would wash over Villeneuve. He is a distinctly different animal to Hill, and pretty well different to the rest of the grand prix drivers.

This 25-year-old French-Canadian, in his first season of Formula One, has sent out a message that says: "I am me. If you don't like it, tough." There are those who suspect his quest to appear natural and individualistic betrays an entirely unnatural and hackneyed show; a yearning for effect and attention.

It could well be that his determination to be his own man, rather than the son of that much loved daredevil Gilles Villeneuve, has driven him to extreme measures. His unwillingness to be drawn into reverential reminiscences of his late father have offended some seasoned observers of the sport.

He has an obsession for den-

im: jeans surgically restructured, jackets intended for giants, dungarees you can only surmise were purloined from the paint shop. "He certainly doesn't spend his money on clothes," one of his rivals dryly commented. That is precisely

You sense psychological pressures would wash over Villeneuve. He is a distinctly different animal to Hill

boyish pranks, and was, in every sense, Jacques the lad.

He is still a boyish figure, in appearance and manner. He is short, bespectacled and, although rapidly thinning on top, his apparel is that of a student existing on the breadline rather than a millionaire celebrity.

He has an obsession for den-

im: jeans surgically restructured, jackets intended for giants, dungarees you can only surmise were purloined from the paint shop. "He certainly doesn't spend his money on clothes," one of his rivals dryly commented. That is precisely

questions. If he makes a mistake, he owns up to it. If the team makes a mistake, he does not turn it into a drama – another area where he has clawed back points from Hill.

None of this, however, has anything to do with racing. So how good is he behind the wheel of a Formula One car?

The short answer is that we do not know. Partly because he is

in the best Formula One car and partly because he is partnering Hill, and no one can be sure

how good he is.

As Eddie Irvine, the Ulsterman partnering Michael Schumacher at Ferrari, recently said: "We'll know how good Damon is until he gets into a bad car." That may come as soon as next season. Hill is still not highly rated among the other drivers.

In the meantime, Villeneuve and Hill have a little business to attend to in Italy, and possibly in Portugal and Japan, before the end of this season. Nothing personal, mind.

Self-doubt is Seldon's greatest enemy

Glyn Leach on the champion with the daunting task of facing Mike Tyson

"Bruce Seldon – no one knows him... that's because no one wants to." The implications of Mike Tyson's voice-over to the promotional video for this weekend's heavyweight title fight in Las Vegas is that Seldon, the World Boxing Association champion, is dangerous to know. That may be the case for some, although probably not for one such as Iron Mike. But it would be entirely accurate to state that Seldon is hard to get to know.

The 29-year-old is not blessed with great communication skills. That is not to say he is inarticulate, just that he often chooses not to articulate. Seldon has suffered the slings and arrows of outrageous media coverage and wears his wounds like a badge. Interviews are often refused and he has been called "sensitive to the point of paranoia". He is, at least, complex.

Seldon served a four and a half year jail term for an armed robbery committed as a 16-year-old on the Atlantic City Boardwalk, outside a casino where his name would later appear in lights. "I was trying to decide whether crime was what I wanted to get into, but it wasn't," he said. Indeed, imprisonment turned his life around. While incarcerated he learned to box, winning the New Jersey state prison super-heavyweight title in 1986.

"As soon as he got back to New Jersey he went to the cemetery and laid the belt across her grave so she would know what he did," his manager, Rocco DePersia, a New Jersey lawyer, said.

Success came late for Seldon, and after several setbacks. He was 28 when he surprisingly stopped Tony Tucker to win the vacant WBA title in April 1995. While his attitude towards the media has softened as his championship reign has unfolded, his distrust is still apparent. Seldon recalls vividly how he was branded a weak-chinned waster after successive stoppages by Oliver McCall and Ridick Bowe in 1991, two of the three losses he has suffered in 36 fights.

"A lot of the print media are locked in a zone of 1991, when Bruce had those two bad

fights," DePersia said. "Because Bruce hasn't been on TV the public haven't seen the way he has put his career back together."

It was a career that was going off the rails. Seldon was 18-0 as a professional before running into McCall, who used the victory as a springboard to the World Boxing Council championship. At the time, the pair were evenly matched – as party animals, if not as fighters. McCall's excesses are legend, but Seldon was once his equal. At 4am on the day he would fight McCall, Seldon could be found in a night club, having escaped through a window at his training camp. Unsurprisingly, he ran out of gas in the ninth round that evening.

Seldon was devastated by the defeat. McCall was nothing more than a sparring partner in those days and Seldon began to question his own worthiness to compete with top heavyweights. "And that played a major part in the Bowe fight," DePersia said.

Bowe destroyed Seldon in one round and the career of the "Atlantic City Express" as Seldon is nicknamed, seemed to have been derailed. Seldon, for all his fabulously muscled physique, lacked the desire and the chin, the media decided.

Where some fighters can shrug off personal problems and self-doubt, Seldon appears



Seldon: Reticent

unable to follow suit. Seldon's other loss, to Tony Tubbs, was his first fight after the death of his long-time trainer, Carmen Graziano. Seldon argues that he was unable to focus under those circumstances.

Today, there appears to be an added maturity in the father of two sons who now lives in Gloucester township, New Jersey. Seldon has built a nine-fight unbeaten run since the defeat by Tubbs, all wins inside the distance. But now he faces by far his greatest test against Tyson, 21 on favourite whose menacing aura can destroy all but the strongest psyches before a punch has been thrown.

DePersia says Seldon will not freeze, citing the WBA champion's prison experiences as evidence. "In a place of bad men, Bruce was one of the hardest," he said. But in the early hours of Sunday morning Seldon will come face to face with "The Baddest Man on the Planet", and his new-found self-belief will be put to the acid test.

The final farewell for troubled Maradona?

Argentina

Diego Maradona, Argentina's football superstar, played what was billed as the last game of his controversial career in Toronto on Monday. The 35-year-old made a guest appearance alongside his brother, Lalo, for Toronto Italia in an exhibition match against an all-star team from the Canadian National Soccer League, and scored the decisive goal – direct from a corner – in a 2-1 win for his brother's club.

A capacity crowd of over 8,000, many of them from the Argentine immigrant community, packed the small Toronto stadium. When Maradona scored, he was engulfed by hundreds of pitch-invading fans who attempted unsuccessfully to carry away their hero. He was subsequently substituted and was on his way out of the stadium before the final whistle.

Maradona spent 10 days last month in a Geneva drug rehabilitation clinic. He went to Switzerland after abruptly leaving his last Argentine club, Boca Juniors, announcing that he wanted to quit drugs once and for all for the sake of his two daughters. His treatment in the clinic included sessions with psychiatrists aimed at reducing his "emotional overburdening". The clinic's director, Arturo Van, said that Maradona was not a drug addict but simply cracked "at fatal moments" under the burden of his fame.

"This is the first step" in the clinic's deputy director, Giovanni Spano, said of Maradona's treatment. "You can't change your life like you can change your socks. A full recovery will take time. He wants to quit – but the possibility of a relapse is always a reality."

Italy

Before Alan Shearer and Barcelona's new boy, Ronaldinho, both overtook him, Gianni Lentini, who cost Milan £13m in 1992, was the world's most expensive footballer. He was also one of the world's most rarely seen players, after he suffered severe head injuries in a near-fatal car crash in 1993 which kept him out of the game for many months.

When he regained his fitness, Lentini found it difficult to break into the team at Milan, where even his huge price tag did not guarantee a first-team place. Now, however, he is trying to relaunch his career at Atalanta, where he will play for a year on loan from Milan.

"I just want to go back to being the good player I was before the accident," the 27-year-old said. Atalanta are coached by Emiliano Mondonico, his former coach at Torino. "Mondonico practically made me," Lentini said. "He gave me the chance to make my mark and I really hope I can keep my promises here."

Mauritania

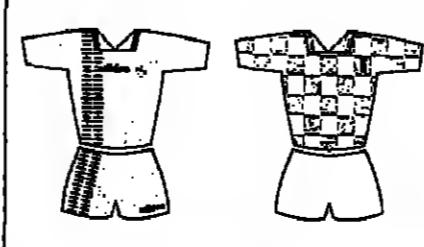
When Mauritania, who had already been eliminated from the 1998 World Cup by Burkina Faso, were knocked out of the African Nations' Cup by Benin last week, their football federation took drastic action. The national team has been dissolved and this season's domestic league championship has been suspended.

"Since we have been eliminated on all fronts and the next commitments are not for another two years, we have good reason to take a break," the federation president, Mohamed Lamine Cheyrou, said. Perhaps Scotland should consider something similar the next time they get beaten by the likes of Costa Rica.

Rupert Murdoch

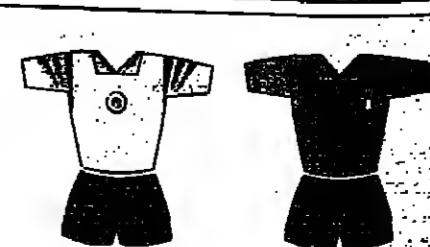
Today's hidden personality

Ranked No 3 in the world, Andre Agassi has won three Grand Slam tennis titles, the Australian, Wimbledon and the US Open and reached four other Grand Slam finals. His major breakthrough came when he beat Goran Ivanisevic in the 1992 final at Wimbledon. Following that success his career hit a slump, but he turned to Brad Gilbert for coaching and his form made a dramatic improvement, culminating in victory at the US Open in 1993. This year he lost in the first round at Wimbledon to Doug Flach, a qualifier, but went on to win the Olympic singles title in Atlanta.



WHEN HARRY MET PAULO, ILIE, SLAVEN AND STAN

Redknapp broadens West Ham's horizons, Page 6



Take and have

RUPERT MURDOCH

Take and have